

LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 460,000

No 63,062

Nurses given 15% to stave off NHS crisis Treasury pledge to fund £749m cost of increase

The Government yesterday eased the crisis in the National Health Service by awarding nurses an average rise of 15.3 per cent, funded in full by the Treasury

By Robin Oakley and Jill Sherman

The Government took the steam out of the National Health Service crisis yesterday by awarding 487,000 nurses an average 15.3 per cent pay increase and by pledging to fund it in full from Treasury reserves.

The announcement on funding will avert the risk of health authorities having to close hospital wards to find the money to meet pay increases.

Ministers hope that it will

give them political breathing space in which to review the future structure of the NHS.

Nurses, midwives and health visitors will receive increases which in 90 per cent of cases will range between 4.2 per cent and 33.6 per cent.

However, the introduction of a new grading structure will mean that a few nurses could see their pay increase by as much as 60 per cent.

The Government has accepted and will implement in

Plans for a lottery to help to fund the NHS, first revealed by The Times yesterday, could provide no more than £100 million for the NHS.

Pay rises in detail... 5 Leading article... 17

full the awards of the pay review bodies for four other groups.

Professions allied to medicine, including physiotherapists, radiographers and occupational therapists, will get average increases of 8.8 per cent.

About 100,000 doctors and dentists will be awarded average rises of 7.9 per cent. The 320,000 members of the armed forces will get an average of 6.4 per cent.

Those in the so-called "top salaries" group, about 2,000 senior Civil Servants and top ranking service officers, will get 5.4 per cent. Judges have been awarded 7.4 per cent.

However, these two categories will receive only 4 per cent backdated to April 1, like the nurses, and will have to wait until October for the balance of their award.

The nurses, doctors and dentists and other medical groups awards are to be funded from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's contingency reserve at a cost of £749 million, bringing the additional spending on the NHS this year to £1.8 billion. The other pay awards will be met from within existing public expenditure totals.

The pay awards will cost £803 million for nurses, £45 million for allied medical staff

and £318 million for doctors and dentists, a total of £1,166 million.

The £417 million difference between that figure and the £749 million being met from the Treasury contingency fund is the amount allowed in existing cash limits towards the pay increases.

The pay deal for nurses includes the implementation of a clinical grading structure designed to reward special skills and to improve career prospects in areas where it has been hard to recruit and retain nurses.

All nurses will receive an interim pay increase of 4 per cent, backdated to April 1, while the regional and district health authorities work out the new grading structure.

Under the new structure, a staff nurse on the top scale looking after children in intensive care could see their basic salary rise by more than £2,000 to £10,650. An experienced ward sister might get a 16 per cent increase in basic salary to £13,925.

There will be a special supplement for nursing staff working in London, on top of the existing London weighting payments. The regrading exercise, the biggest ever, will affect 85 per cent of nurses.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, said last night "It is good news for the staff, good news for the patients and good news for the country."

He made clear that he was no longer pressing the Treasury for any extra money for the NHS after winning funding for the better than expected pay settlement. He said: "The NHS has got an extra 5.3 per cent in real terms which in anyone's eyes will be seen as generous."

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's chief health spokesman, said: "Today's increase is a famous victory for the NHS. It shows that even this government cannot ignore the depth of public support for the NHS."

"Ministers must now cut domestic staff in on the deal. They need the same kind of rise as the nurses if the NHS is to stop running on cheap labour."

"I welcome the fact that Continued on page 24, col 1

The hijacked Princess



Princess Ebtessam al-Sabah, one of three members of the Kuwaiti Royal Family held hostage on the hijacked airliner, looking remarkably relaxed after her ordeal before flying back to Kuwait from Algiers yesterday. Hijack aftermath, page 7; Howe pressure, page 24.

Hackers win in test case on computers

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Hacking into computers for amusement is not a criminal offence, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

In an important test case, the five Law Lords unanimously upheld a Court of Appeal ruling that two computer hackers who broke into British Telecom's Prestel computerized information service using home computers in 1984 had gained access by a trick, rather than a criminal offence.

Mr Stephen Gold, aged 32, an accountant, of Watt Lane, Sheffield, and Mr Robert Schifreen, aged 25, a computer magazine editor, of Edgwarebury Gardens, Edgware, north-west London, made unauthorized alterations to data and charged account holders without their knowledge.

Mr Schifreen was said to have got into the Duke of Edinburgh's computer files and left messages. He later told police that he had been greeted by the message "Good afternoon. HRH Duke of Edinburgh" in Prince Philip's electronic mailbox.

On uncovering the breach of security, British Telecom brought the pair to court on the basis that such hacking could be covered by 1981 Forgery and Counterfeiting Act. In 1986 Southwark Crown Court fined Mr Gold £600 and Mr Schifreen £750, with £1,000 costs each.

However, last summer, the two won appeals against the conviction. In the Court of Appeal, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, had said: "Their conduct amounted in essence to dishonestly gaining access to the relevant Prestel data bank by a trick. That is not a criminal offence. If it is thought desirable to make it so, that is a matter for the legislature rather than the courts."

Lord Lane said in the Appeal Court that the prosecution had to prove that the hackers had made a "false instrument", which they in-

tended to pass off as genuine. However, the case appeared to be that a machine was both the "false instrument" the men had made and the third party they intended to deceive. That would be an "absurdity".

Yesterday, Lord Brandon said that he shared Lord Lane's view that the prosecution was an attempt to "force the facts of the case into the language of an Act not designed to fit them".

He said that the two hackers had wanted to prove their skill, rather than gain any benefit. "It never occurred to them that they might be committing any offences under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981", he said.

Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Templeman, Lord Oliver and Lord Goff agreed in dismis-

ing the prosecution's appeal against the Court of Appeal's ruling.

Afterwards, Mr Schifreen said: "I knew from the start that the Forgery Act is not designed to apply to unauthorized access to computers and that has now been proved."

"I am not saying computer hacking should be legal, but there should be a specific law to cover it."

In spite of yesterday's ruling, hacking carried out deliberately for gain, or to inflict damage on a company can be construed by courts as an existing offence, such as fraud or malicious damage.

The Home Office said last night that it was awaiting the recommendations of the Law Commission before making a decision about the need for legislation to cover unauthorized access of computers.

The commission is investigating whether hacking for amusement should be made a criminal offence, and is likely to submit its report before the end of the year.

Concessions fail to halt fresh poll tax revolt

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government failed last night to avert another Conservative backbench revolt over the poll tax in spite of concessions designed to soften the impact of the new uniform business rate.

As foreshadowed in The Times yesterday, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs during the resumed report stage of the Local Government Finance Bill that he was taking powers to extend the existing five-year transitional period for the introduction of the new system to cover the five years after 1995.

The aim is to enable the Government to set lower ceilings in the first five years after business rates revaluation in 1990 than would otherwise have been the case.

He also announced that small firms would have a lower ceiling on their rate rises in the five years after 1990 than large ones. He indicated clearly to Conservative MPs that the figure for small firms is likely to be 5 per cent lower.

Mr Ridley failed, however, to satisfy Conservative MPs

Parliament... 12

worried about the large rises that firms in many Tory areas will still have to face. He resisted strong pressure to disclose what the ceiling for business rates rises would be.

He said that he could make an "awful mess" of it if he announced now that it would be 20 per cent, 15 per cent or 10 per cent and it turned out

to be unnecessarily high or low after revaluation. Mr Ridley said: "We cannot set the ceiling until we have the preliminary results of the revaluation."

MPs complained they were being asked to take decisions amid great uncertainty over what the effects of the change to a uniform rate and revaluation would be.

Mr Richard Shepherd, Conservative MP for Aldridge Brownhills, complained of a "most speculative redistribution". He said: "We have not a clue how it will hurt people or help people. We do not know this information."

He called on Mr Ridley to withdraw the business rate part of the Bill pending revaluation.

Hailsham appointed to Garter

Lord Hailsham of Saint Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, has been appointed to the Order of the Garter, widely regarded as the world's most exclusive honour. He joins the Queen's select band of 24 elder statesmen belonging to Britain's highest order of chivalry.

Buckingham Palace last night announced that Lord Hailsham, aged 80, who served under six Prime Ministers was to be appointed with Viscount Leventhal, a former Senior Steward of the Jockey Club.

The Garter insignia includes a collar in gold and enamel, a badge called the Great George, a sash and the Garter itself of embroidered velvet, worn just below the knee.

The appointments follow the recent deaths of Garter members Lord Rhodes and Lord Cobbold.

Britain plans curb on 'sky marshals'

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Britain is to clamp down on the growing number of airlines who employ armed "sky marshals" to protect their jets from possible hijacks.

Every airline flying into Britain is to be told that no automatic weapons will be allowed and any gun, other than a small pistol or revolver, will be seized on landing and confiscated.

There will also be a maximum of nine pistols allowed on any aircraft, however big.

British airlines are already forbidden from carrying armed guards but many foreign airlines now routinely employ armed guards to protect either the aircraft itself or prominent passengers.

There has recently been a dramatic increase both in the number and firepower of the weapons carried, with some airlines arming their sky marshals with sub-machine-guns and shotguns.

The Customs have told operators that they believe the type and number of firearms on board aircraft is sometimes greater than is necessary for the protection of the aircraft. Details of the crackdown are being drawn up for implementation from May 1 because of worries that the Kuwait hijack could encourage some airlines, especially from the Middle East, to arm their own guards even more heavily.

The Department of Transport said last night: "We have never believed that armed sky marshals were the right way to tackle the problem and that greater emphasis should be placed on security on the ground. But if some airlines want to use them we are insisting that they do so on the basis of our own regulations."

Whitehall condemned hijackers 'non-persons', page 7

Gore calls off his presidential bid

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, who finished third in the New York primary with only 10 per of the vote, yesterday suspended his presidential campaign, but did not pull out of the race.

He told a news conference yesterday that he was remaining a candidate technically so that his delegates could go to the convention. But he said the nomination should go to either Governor Michael Dukakis or the Reverend Jesse Jackson.

"I want no part of a stop Jackson or stop Dukakis movement," he said. "The

only man I want to stop is George Bush."

Senator Gore had not won a primary since Super Tuesday, when he won seven states in the south. Since then his campaign has floundered.

His decision not to release his delegates will anger Mr Jackson, who would have picked up many of them in states where he came second.

Mr Gore's supporters in Tennessee urged him to withdraw, noting that at 40 he is still young enough to run again. Governor Ned McWherter said Tennesseans were proud of him.

Shall I compare thee to a Shakespeare fake?

By Alan Hamilton

"Isn't it extraordinary," shouted Professor A.L. Rowse from the end of a telephone line, and his patience, at his home in Cornwall, "that any thing relating to Shakespeare sends people absolutely haywire?"

Professor Rowse, onetime begueter of the Dark Lady of the Sonnets, is one of the few outsiders to have set eyes on what is being claimed as a hitherto undiscovered poem by Shakespeare unearthed in a Californian library by Professor Peter Levi, holder of the chair of poetry at Oxford University. That it is the work of Will himself is, according to Dr Rowse, improbable to say the least.

Professor Levi and his publishers, Macmillan, have promised to unveil

the poem at a press conference in London on Monday. Macmillan were being exceedingly coy about it yesterday until they were pressed into revealing that they have sold the text to a national newspaper. The academic community is singularly unimpressed.

"Shakespeare was so famous that everybody has already published every scrap that he ever wrote," Dr Rowse said yesterday. "While the verses are rather better than some previous alleged Shakespeare finds, and while Peter Levi has a good ear for poetry, the hand of Shakespeare can be no more than a remote possibility."

Professor Philip Brockbank, editor of the Cambridge University Press Shakespeare series and recently retired head of the Shakespeare Institute

at Birmingham University, was more blunt. "There has been no valid Shakespeare discovery since Pericles," he said. "It remains to be seen whether Professor Levi's supposed discovery is an event of scholarship or an event of publicity."

Great attempts had been made to find Shakespeare's missing play Love's Labour's Won, but the only texts ever found had been proved to be 18th-century forgeries.

Professor Levi's supposed discovery is a collection of short poems of four verses each, composed as though from a number of different women and written down by Shakespeare's regular copyist, Ralph Crane. "It is the case with such material that if you are predisposed to find the evidence you are looking for, then you will find it,"

Professor Brockbank said. "Why there should be such a fuss over what is claimed to be a minor attributed poem, when most of Shakespeare's genuine poems remain unread, is a mystery."

Scholars are generally dismissive of the last Shakespearean brouhaha in 1985, when Mr Gary Taylor, a young American researcher at Oxford, claimed to have found an unknown manuscript of the Bard in the Bodleian Library. "Taylor's poem was a non-event. It has now settled down as a minor attributed work," Professor Brockbank said.

Dr Tom Matheson, deputy director of the Shakespeare Institute, was equally unimpressed. "Loads of plays and poems have been attributed to

Continued on page 24, col 5

Surge in lending feeds fear of higher inflation

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Fears of a resurgence in inflation were raised yesterday by figures showing an acceleration in money and credit growth. But the figures pushed the pound higher on the foreign exchange markets as they made a cut in base rates less likely.

Record mortgage borrowing, helped by Budget tax cuts, the mortgage rate war and strong growth in incomes, is being accompanied by heavy borrowing by companies.

The figures would normally

point to the need for the Treasury to raise interest rates. But sterling's strength prevents this. The pound closed half a cent up at \$1.8990 and traded at \$1.90 in New York last night. It also rose by nearly a penny to just below DM3.16.

The money supply figures showed a £4.7 billion increase in bank lending and a £6.6 billion rise in bank and building society lending combined, last month. Details, page 25

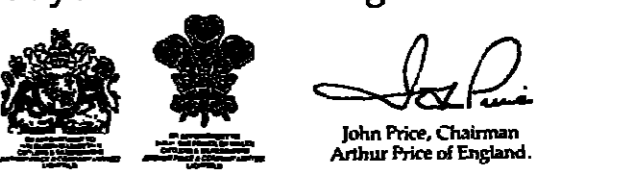
Comment, page 27



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END COLUMN Greig is critical of points system

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Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

With two daily prize winners yesterday, the Portfolio Accumulator fund stands today at £42,000.

Yesterday's winners page 3

THE TIMES STOCKWATCH - the most comprehensive financial information phone-line service in Britain, and free to Times readers.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND Schools' Final, Round Five, page 14

TIMES FOCUS Northern England is taking on a new look as more and more economic opportunities are being created says a Special Report... Pages 34-36

IN PART 2 Penalty points Football clubs with poor disciplinary records face having League points deducted, if a plan proposed yesterday by the Football League and Professional Footballers' Association is ratified by the FA this summer... Page 44

INDEX table with categories like Home News, Overseas, Business, Sport, etc.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Escort agency 'run at council'

Claims that a model and escort agency supplying women for clients was run from the treasurer's department of a local authority are being investigated.

Calling cards issued by the agency gave telephone numbers inside the treasurer's department. They were handed out at exhibitions and functions attended by businessmen in the city.

Officials launched the investigation after becoming suspicious about telephone calls to the treasurer's department which were monitored on a computerized logging system installed to check unauthorized calls.

The suspended officers are Mr Brian Jackson, a former president of the Birmingham branch of the National and Local Government Officers' Association and Mr Tom Doherty. They were not available for comment yesterday.

Forty security staff employed by the city council are also facing disciplinary action, for making unauthorized telephone calls while on duty late at night.

Rail death inquiry

British Rail has ordered an inquiry into the death of a workman and the injury of another when they were hit by a passenger train in a tunnel near Crowborough, East Sussex, yesterday.

University jobs fear

Up to twenty lecturers at Sussex University may have to be made compulsorily redundant because of a sharp drop in applications from overseas students last year, the university announced yesterday.

A big majority of the public is opposed to the abolition of the county councils as a tier of local government, according to a survey by Market and Opinion Research International (MORI).

Abolition opposed

The MORI poll, which involved questioning 1,000 people in March, discloses that 62 per cent of adults in England and Wales oppose abolition of the councils.

Operas at cut-price

Covent Garden's new production of Michael Tippett's opera, The Knot Garden, will have its premiere at an operatic Promenade Concert next Friday, conducted by Sian Edwards.

Karpov nears goal

Anatoly Karpov, the former world chess champion, won his game against the Belgian player, Winauts, in the sixteenth round of the Swift World Cup tournament in Brussels and leads by a full point with only one round left.

Police raid homes in Belfast

13 held over killings of two soldiers

The arrests come after intensive Special Branch scrutiny of media coverage of the funeral on March 19.

RUC investigators have much photographic and video evidence, some of it seized from the BBC, ITN and RTE, the Irish state network.

The RUC declined to comment on the arrests but Provisional Sinn Fein confirmed that one of those detained is Terrence "Cleeky" Clarke, aged 40.

He was the chief steward at the funeral of Brady, who was one of three mourners killed in a "loyalist" gun and grenade attack on the joint funeral of the three Gibraltar bombers three days earlier.

Clark was arrested at his home in the Ardoyne district. Two men have already been charged with murdering the corporals. A third has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Corporal

Divided Dover counts cost of the strike

By Boris Johnson and John Spicer

It was lunchtime in the Nelson public house in Dover town centre when the burly leader of three National Union of Seamen pickets slammed his pint on the bar and jammed a finger at a dark-haired man on a bar stool.

"Come here and say that," he shouted. "Come here and say we should have gone back to work. It might be your turn one day."

After 12 weeks of a strike by 2,300 P&O sailors, the conflict yesterday in the town famous for its seafaring history was simple: you either supported the National Union of Seamen and the hundreds of men who had forfeited their jobs after Wednesday's deadline to sign management contracts, or you thought they should have returned to the ferries.

The officers said they would cooperate with the resumption, provided there were enough qualified crewmen. They negotiated their own agreement under P&O's plans to save £6 million on cross Channel routes by reducing staff and altering shift arrangements.

This morning, points "clarified" between company officials and the officers' union will be spelt out to strikers at a mass meeting in Dover. As a mark of how far relations have deteriorated, P&O issued a statement after a further round of talks yesterday describing the meeting as a "total waste of time".

After 12 weeks, during which savings have been eroded and widespread hardship has been caused, it looks as though the management has beaten the strikers by persuading 900 of their colleagues to sign up. About 1,400 seamen have been dismissed.

"Many of us have been ill with worry over this past week", Mr Neil O'Hare, formerly assistant bosun of the Pride of Calais, said. Mrs Jeanette

Backlog of citizenship applications 'scandalous'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A mountainous backlog of unacknowledged and unopened applications for British citizenship has been condemned as scandalous by a Conservative-controlled committee of MPs.

By late February there were 207,000 applications awaiting attention at the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Department at Lunar House in Croydon, south London, and 70,000 passports were being held "indefinitely".

The Commons home affairs committee will publish a scathing report on Monday, describing the hold ups as a "substantial indictment" of Home Office administration.

They are causing trauma to the applicants, many of whom are living here legally but are nevertheless fearful for their future.

In evidence to the committee last February, Sir Brian Cubbon, permanent secretary at the Home Office, agreed the backlog was "unacceptable" and said the aim was to clear it within two years.

The report will be acutely embarrassing to the Home Office, which last year was the butt of similarly strong criticism for the prolonged chaos at Heathrow Airport caused by overseas visitors desperate to enter Britain before visa requirements were imposed.

The "administrative chaos" at Lunar House stems from the British Nationality Act, 1981 which entitled certain Commonwealth citizens living in this country to register as British citizens by the end of 1987.

The Home Office anticipated 90,000 applications last year but received 300,000. The committee describes the preparations as hopelessly inadequate. Sir Brian, in his evidence, conceded: "We got it wrong".

Contingency plans to deal with the last-minute rush proved inadequate. Immigration staff had been diverted to new terminals at Heathrow and Gatwick airports, or to assist the expanding prison service. Recruiting staff at uncompetitive rates of pay in overcrowded Croydon was difficult.

The Home Office has taken staff from other duties to process the backlog. Extra funds are planned for Lunar House and it is hoped to transfer some of the work to other offices.

The 10-man committee, which includes six Conservative MPs, said it still viewed the matter with "grave concern" and wanted faster action. In spite of expecting the influx and being aware of staff shortages, the Home Office did nothing to prevent Lunar House being overwhelmed.

Long-term residents who might have grounds but understandable fears about their future status were being subjected to traumatic delay. The committee will call on the Home Office to make adequate resources immediately available and to reverse its policy of holding passports "in limbo" instead of photocopying them.

An urgent public inquiry into the running of the Immigration and Nationality Department has been demanded by one of the committee, Mr Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East, last night tabled a Commons motion, signed by about thirty colleagues.

The IRA claimed responsibility and said it was a warning to contractors against working on any security forces or Crown buildings throughout the Province.

The injured man was hit in the leg but his wound is not serious.

There has so far been no explanation for an explosion which injured a builder's workman earlier yesterday at Tynan Abbey, Co Armagh, which is being restored.

The stately home was left derelict after the murders of a former speaker of the Stormont Parliament and his son set fire to the building in January 1981.

Shortly before 10am yesterday, one of the restorers received head and leg injuries in an explosion. "The injuries are serious but his life is not in danger", police said later.

Eleven come from what has been unkindly described as the lunatic fringe of politics and four from the mainstream - two from what was the SDP-Liberal Alliance, one from Plaid Cymru and one from the Scottish National Party.

In addition, Mr Richard Jenkins, who stood unsuccessfully for the Conservatives in Orkney and Shetland, and Mr David Shutt, the beaten Alliance candidate in Calder Valley both breached the official expenses limits for their constituencies. They too have been reported to the prosecuting authorities.

Mr Jenkins spent £5,365.83, about £800 more than the £4,565.82 limit. He polled 4,959 votes, which means each supporter cost him more than £1 apiece. Mr Shutt only just exceeded his limit, spending £6,229.63 against a ceiling of £6,191.04.

Yesterday, it seemed that the

Leitch, who was a stewardess on the Pride of Canterbury, said: "My sister has split up with her husband, who was a pursuer, because they are so hard up."

They were among pickets handing leaflets to lorry drivers at the Eastern Docks. All could recite the number of the hotline P&O had kept open for those ready to capitulate, and thought hard about not accepting.

"I had to take a job as a taxi driver", Mr Kevin Mahoney, aged 31, said. "But I want to go back to sea. I first went to the deep sea when I was 13 as a deck boy. But you can't work under these new arrangements."

"Even the taxi driving hardly lets me feed my wife and child. Daytime business is 50 per cent down since the strike began. It has destroyed the local economy, and it is wrecking the town."

Mr John Herenan, the coaching administrator of the National Small Bore Rifle Association, which is organizing the British entry, said yesterday that she was believed to be the youngest shooter ever to represent her country.

The discovery of her prowess at the sport came when she was asked at the age of 11 to make up the triathlon team at an athletics club near her home. At that event, using a pistol for the first time, she recorded a remarkable 87 out of 100. She entered again the next year and since then she has had coaching sessions with the national squad at Bradford, with help from Mr Colin Elsworth and his wife Freda, her parents.

Although she is in the fifth form at her school, she is forbidden by law to carry an air weapon in public because she is under 17.

She said yesterday: "I am really looking forward to being in the team, but I am not nervous at all."

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said that all the material relevant to the massacre in the custody of the Ministry of Defence was being rigorously re-examined to see if it could provide the basis for the kind of action for which Mr Rooker was pressing.

He said that the British courts had no jurisdiction in the case. If information came to light it would be matter for the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, to consider making representations. Although Herr Mohnke could be tried in West Germany, he could not be extradited.

The diary item finished with the sentence: "He left FNFC in 1975 as its multi-million pound real estate venture collapsed, forcing the Government to throw it a lifeline to keep it afloat."

Announcing settlement of the libel action, Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, for Lord De L'Isle, told Mr Justice Popple that the implication that Lord De L'Isle had left a sinking ship or that his departure caused the Government to come to FNFC's rescue was totally untrue.

Lord De L'Isle, had only resigned as chairman of FNFC after consulting with the Governor of the Bank of England and other substantial FNFC by what became known as the "lifeboat", Mr Carter-Ruck said.

Mr Alastair Brent, for Times Newspapers, said the meanings attributed had not been intended and any embarrassment or distress was regretted.

A comment opposing the presence of Mr Ron Brown, MP, at a forthcoming march of republican sympathizers in Letham should have been attributed yesterday to Mr James McLean, of the Edinburgh Loyalist Coalition, not to Mr William Sutherland, Chief Constable of Lothian.

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Team's youngest shot

By Peter Davenport

Laura Elsworth, aged 15, is expected next month to become the youngest person ever to represent Britain in an international shooting competition.

The teenager, from Rowlands Hill, near Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, whose speciality is the air pistol, will join competitors from 10 other countries at a target shooting match at Kellinghusen, in West Germany.

She is one of 12 members of the Great Britain under-21 team for the four-day event.

Mr John Herenan, the coaching administrator of the National Small Bore Rifle Association, which is organizing the British entry, said yesterday that she was believed to be the youngest shooter ever to represent her country.

The discovery of her prowess at the sport came when she was asked at the age of 11 to make up the triathlon team at an athletics club near her home. At that event, using a pistol for the first time, she recorded a remarkable 87 out of 100. She entered again the next year and since then she has had coaching sessions with the national squad at Bradford, with help from Mr Colin Elsworth and his wife Freda, her parents.

Although she is in the fifth form at her school, she is forbidden by law to carry an air weapon in public because she is under 17.

She said yesterday: "I am really looking forward to being in the team, but I am not nervous at all."

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said that all the material relevant to the massacre in the custody of the Ministry of Defence was being rigorously re-examined to see if it could provide the basis for the kind of action for which Mr Rooker was pressing.

He said that the British courts had no jurisdiction in the case. If information came to light it would be matter for the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, to consider making representations. Although Herr Mohnke could be tried in West Germany, he could not be extradited.

The diary item finished with the sentence: "He left FNFC in 1975 as its multi-million pound real estate venture collapsed, forcing the Government to throw it a lifeline to keep it afloat."

Announcing settlement of the libel action, Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, for Lord De L'Isle, told Mr Justice Popple that the implication that Lord De L'Isle had left a sinking ship or that his departure caused the Government to come to FNFC's rescue was totally untrue.

Lord De L'Isle, had only resigned as chairman of FNFC after consulting with the Governor of the Bank of England and other substantial FNFC by what became known as the "lifeboat", Mr Carter-Ruck said.

Mr Alastair Brent, for Times Newspapers, said the meanings attributed had not been intended and any embarrassment or distress was regretted.

A comment opposing the presence of Mr Ron Brown, MP, at a forthcoming march of republican sympathizers in Letham should have been attributed yesterday to Mr James McLean, of the Edinburgh Loyalist Coalition, not to Mr William Sutherland, Chief Constable of Lothian.

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Tougher standard of ferry safety

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Measures to improve safety on passenger ships, including a greater capacity to withstand damage without capsizing, were approved yesterday by the organization which sets international standards for safety of life at sea.

They were adopted towards the end of a two-week meeting in London of the maritime safety committee of the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations body to which 131 countries belong.

Rear Admiral J. William Kime, who is leading the United States delegation, thought most traditional cruise ships such as the Queen Elizabeth II would meet the standard on capsizing.

However, calculations done in Britain on 10 roll-on roll-off passenger ferries suggested that eight would not have met the criteria, which are likely to come into force for newly built vessels in about 18 months.

In Britain, research sponsored by the Department of Transport, is being carried out on the stability of ferries.

Although Britain supported the new measure, it made clear that it would press for stiffer standards if its research showed that was necessary.

Agreement was reached on proposals put forward by Britain after the Zebrugga ferry disaster, in which 193 people died when the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized in March last year - water rushed on to the vehicle decks through the open bow doors.

The proposals were: roll-on roll-off passenger ferries to be fitted with indicator lights to show whether bow and stern doors have been properly closed; closed-circuit television, or other surveillance, to be installed to monitor vehicle decks; a television system for officers on the bridge to see whether the bow and stern doors are closed; emergency lighting in public spaces and stairways to operate independently of main power systems and continue for three hours even when a vessel has capsized.

It is expected the proposals will be formally adopted in October and come into force internationally a year later. British ferries have already installed the equipment.

Other British proposals, designed to give ship's masters more information about the stability of their vessels, will be discussed at a meeting of the maritime safety committee in October.

Standards of stability for dry cargo ships have also been discussed. Admiral Kime said that some cargo roll-on roll-off ferries seemed to have been built virtually without regard to their ability to survive damage.

He thought it possible to greatly improve their safety.

Peer wins apology

Times Newspapers yesterday apologized to Lord De L'Isle over an article in The Times diary in July 1985. The article referred to Lord De L'Isle's former chairmanship of First National Finance Corporation not being mentioned in the biography of Lord De L'Isle which Mr Peter Palumbo had provided on Lord De L'Isle's appointment as Chairman of the City Acre Property Investment Trust.

The diary item finished with the sentence: "He left FNFC in 1975 as its multi-million pound real estate venture collapsed, forcing the Government to throw it a lifeline to keep it afloat."

Announcing settlement of the libel action, Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, for Lord De L'Isle, told Mr Justice Popple that the implication that Lord De L'Isle had left a sinking ship or that his departure caused the Government to come to FNFC's rescue was totally untrue.

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Ban on brain cell transplants sought to stop exploitation

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The use of transplanted brain cells from aborted human foetuses to help sufferers of disabling conditions could become a huge commercial business, delegates at a conference on medical ethics were told yesterday.

A consultant gynaecologist called for a ban on the transplants, two of which have been carried out recently in Birmingham.

The operations, still at an experimental stage, are intended to help patients with Parkinson's disease by replacing the missing chemical dopamine, which is necessary for the control of physical movement.

Dr Pamela Sims, of Hexham, Northumberland, said there was a danger that foetal brain tissue could be bought and sold and even that some women might deliberately become pregnant to provide surgeons and researchers with the material.

Mrs Jean Robinson, a lay member of the General Medical Council, also warned delegates during the debate at the International Conference on the Philosophical Ethics of Reproductive Medicine at Leeds University, that the practice could become "very big business". She said it was essential that women contem-

plating an abortion were fully informed of the possible use of the foetus.

Dr Sims said: "There should be a complete moratorium on these operations until there has been an adequate public debate. I feel extreme disquiet about the commercial interest that may result from this practice.

"If there were to be a shortage of foetuses available for this purpose some women might get pregnant in order to meet the demand. This is only one step further down the road from where we now stand."

Dr Sims, who is a member of Life, the anti-abortion organization, said: "Although abortion is legal that does not make it right.

"I do not believe that in the case of foetal tissue transplants something good can come out of something that is morally wrong. The end does not justify the means."

Mrs Robinson said: "This is going to be very big business. It will build into a market of enormous commercial value. Once women realize what the issues are they will be very angry indeed if they are not given a voice in the disposal of foetal tissue."

Dr Richard West, chairman of the Hospital Ethics Com-

mittee which approved the Birmingham operations, told the conference that the committee had not discussed at any length the need for the women undergoing the abortions to be asked to consent to the use of the foetal material.

"The situation seemed to us to be very similar to that of a typical cadaver transplant case", he said.

"We were satisfied with the ethical issues and the woman had signed a disclaimer about their rights in the disposal of the foetuses."

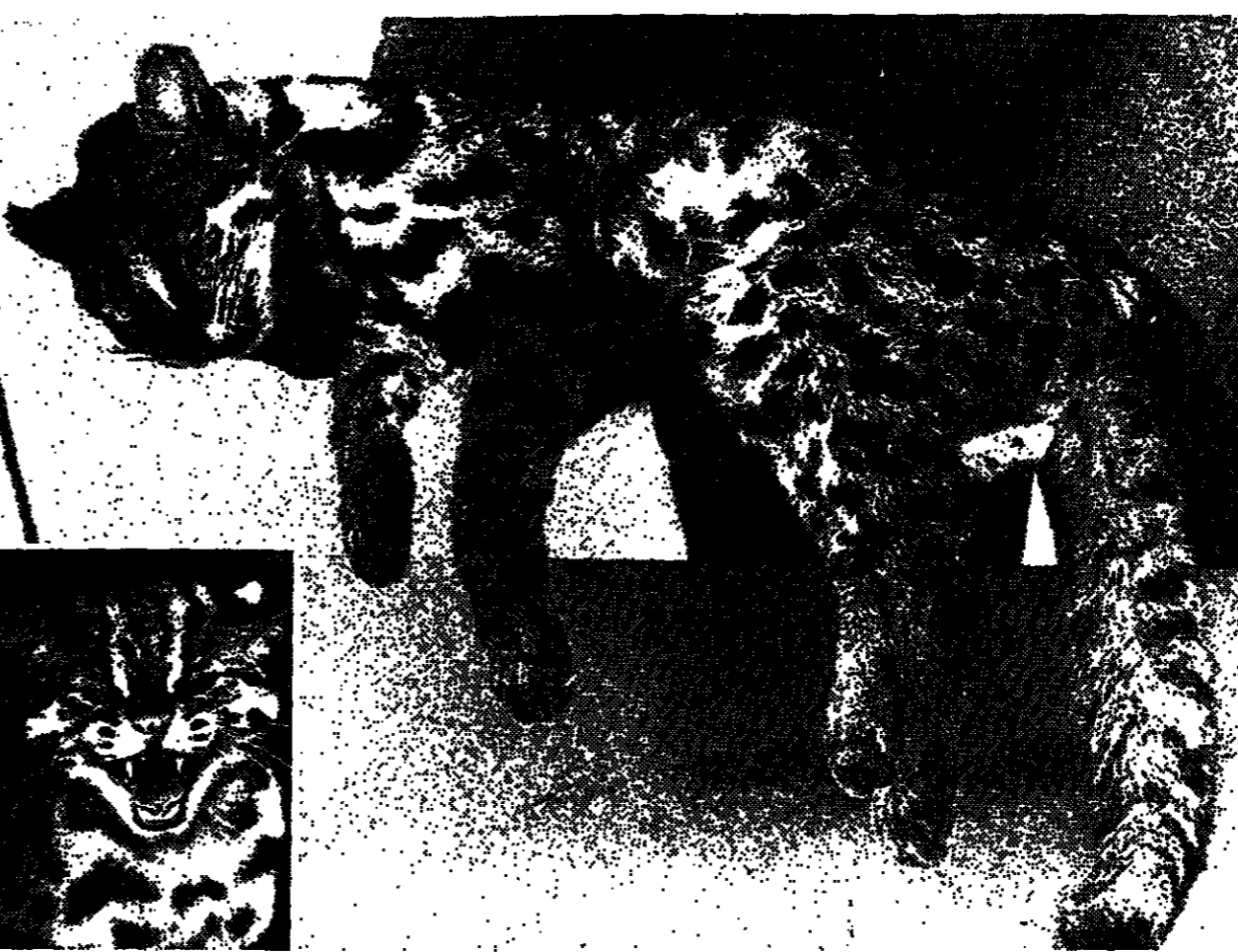
Dr Soren Holm, a Danish specialist from Copenhagen, said: "Doctors should obtain explicit informed consent from such women. Few of these patients are likely to be aware that the foetus may be used for research or for operations of this kind."

Dr Raanon Gillon, editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, told the conference: "If it is legitimate to perform an abortion it is also legitimate to use the special moral justification to say that it is wrong to offer the aborted material for transplantation."

The British Medical Association is now in the process of drafting guidelines on the ethics of foetal tissue transplants.

Letters, page 17

Exmoor beast mystery lives on



For a while yesterday West Country farmers clung hopefully to rumours that the body of this animal, shot after it was reported chasing geese, was that of the Beast of Exmoor, the creature with a five inch paw span blamed for killing hundreds of sheep and lambs five years ago.

The shot animal and notified the Ministry of Agriculture as a precaution against rabies. The ministry decided that the cat, a young male aged six to eight months, was not imported and was too young to have attempted breeding.

Whisky industry urges united stand

By Colin Narbrough

The Scotch Whisky Association yesterday appealed to the drinks industry for a united stand against the "new prohibitionists", which it regards as a serious threat to the industry.

The association is relieved that the Chancellor did not follow the anti-alcohol lobby's advice by increasing duties on wines and spirits in the Budget, but the call for a counter offensive indicates the in-

dustry's anxiety. Mr Richard Grindal, secretary of the association's Alcohol Research and Education Committee, addressing a meeting of the Wine and Spirit Association of Scotland said that the present campaign was more menacing than earlier temperance movements.

The prohibition movement had cleverly linked drinking with health.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Win pays for thatch repairs

The thatched roof of a cottage in Cambridgeshire will soon be in a state of improved repair after its owner shared the £4,000 first prize in the Portfolio Gold competition.

Mr Frank Tow, a tax consultant of West Wickham, Cambridge, has been intending for some time to do work on his house. Apart from the roof, there will be improvements to several other areas of the fifteenth-century building.

He shares today's prize with Mr Albert Cooke, of York. Mr Cooke intends to spend some of his £2,000 on a touring holiday in the Highlands of Scotland with his wife, Gladys.

Mr Cooke, aged 76, a retired local government officer, said: "It was a wonderful surprise".



Mr Cooke, planning a Highland touring holiday.

Welsh grant

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, has allocated £248,000 to the Welsh Language Education Development Committee, including £114,000 to fund the in-service training of teachers using information technology.

Cash cuts 'condemn babies'

By David Cross

Some newborn babies were being condemned to death or to living handicapped lives because of a shortage of government funds, a leading paediatrician, Professor Neil McIntosh of Edinburgh University, said yesterday at the launch of a pressure group called Action for the Newborn.

He said that about 14,000 of the 700,000 babies born each year needed intensive care to survive and another 100,000 some specialized help.

The formation of the group, which seeks improved hospital facilities for premature and sick babies, coincides with renewed controversy among doctors about the ethics of allowing very frail newly born babies to die by withholding

or withdrawing medical treatment.

On Thursday Professor Alexander Campbell, head of the department of child health at Aberdeen University, said doctors were sometimes justified in withdrawing treatment from very low weight babies who either had little chance of survival or risked being severely brain-damaged. In his view 750 grams was a "flexible level below which medical intervention should not be continued".

Dr John Baum, professor of child health at Bristol University, said yesterday that doctors should not try too hard to keep a child alive who might survive with serious brain handicaps, particularly if it penalized a child who might

survive. But parents must be fully consulted.

"If you had major bleeding in the brain or heart failure, you would have to consider whether it was worth continuing treatment", Dr Baum said.

Professor Osmond Reynolds, professor of neo-natal paediatrics at University College, London, said: "With a policy of withdrawing medical intervention from babies under 1,000 grams, you might find two babies being admitted at the same time one weighing 1,005 grams and the other 995 grams.

"But the bigger baby could be in ghastly shape and the smaller one laughing away. It would make no sense at all to keep the heavier baby alive and let the lighter one die."

£3m gift for child hospital

By Robin Young

Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed, the chairman and owner of Harrods, has given the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, central London, the most advanced body scanner in the world, costing £3 million.

Mr Al-Fayed, who visited the hospital yesterday to see the machine working, is also paying for all operating costs for the first year, during which the scanner will be used to examine up to 2,000 children suffering from diseases of the brain and spinal chord.

The magnetic resonance imaging unit, built by Siemens of West Germany, is the first to be installed in a children's hospital in Britain. It produces three dimensional images from within the patient's body without using potentially harmful X-rays, and can reveal conditions that X-rays would not detect.

Mr Al-Fayed, whose son Karim was once a patient at the hospital, has never allowed his support for it to be publicized before.

The hospital has recently raised more than £16 million towards its £30 million redevelopment appeal.

Cautious welcome for NHS lottery

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities and the medical profession yesterday said the new lottery for the National Health Service was no solution to the present funding crisis.

Dr John Marks, chairman of the council of the British Medical Association, said the lottery, which could raise a maximum of £40 million a year for the health service, should be seen only as the icing on the cake. "We need proper funding for the NHS from taxation", Dr Marks said.

The National Association of Health Authorities said the scheme, which has been set up by the National Hospital Trust and will draw the first prizes on TV-am on May 25, would provide a welcome boost to NHS funds. But Miss Yvonne Mounier, the association's deputy director, said health authorities would be unable to rely on the extra money.

Sir Douglas Black, the chairman of the National Hospital Trust, also emphasized yesterday that the funds from the lottery should not be seen as an alternative to adequate finance from taxation. A weekly prize of up to £200,000 may be awarded.

The Department of Health and Social Security said ministers were concerned that resources could be diverted from other charities and it could give no guarantee that the Government would not take into account the income from the lottery when allocating funds, although that was unlikely at this stage.

The trust says that the maximum turnover possible within the present gambling laws would be £150 million a year. Half the income will go on prize money, 15 per cent on administration and the remainder will be distributed to Britain's health authorities.

The man behind the new scheme is Mr Roger Cummins, from the Loto consultancy, who indicated that if it was not successful within six weeks his company would pull out.

Under existing laws local authorities can run lotteries with a maximum prize of £2,000, or £6,000 if they are registered with the Gaming Board. The trust has registered as 100 local lotteries and participants will be invited to contribute up to £2 to each combined weekly draw.

Dead man linked to police killing Alleged informer on trial

A man who is alleged to have provided information about a police killer who was hunted for more than two years went on trial yesterday accused of 13 charges, including armed robbery and wounding.

Peter Sanderson, aged 41, was arrested after police inquiries into the death of David Gricewith, who was shot with his own gun at Teesside in February last year.

Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Sanderson had subsequently told the police that Gricewith was the man who shot and killed Sergeant John Speed and wounded another police officer at Leeds in October 1984.

Mr Rivlin told Teesside Crown Court that Gricewith would be an "important figure" in the case against Mr Sanderson who, it was alleged, had been involved with him in a crime spree in the North from 1976 until last year.

Mr Sanderson, a builder, of Main Street, Fulford, York, denies all 13 charges, four of which relate to a £223,000

robbery at the Kirkehall Post Office, Leeds, in February 1983. It is alleged that Mr Sanderson fired a sawn-off shotgun which wounded Mr Ronald Thackray, a Post Office employee.

Mr Rivlin said Gricewith, aged 38, a garage owner, of Tholthorpe, near York, died while being chased by police from the scene of an attempted robbery at a supermarket in Cleveland.

He said Gricewith was wounded when his loaded shotgun went off as his car crashed into a wall. His death in police custody shortly afterwards "ended a long criminal career as a ruthless armed robber".

The prosecution was able to say that Gricewith had killed Sergeant Speed and wounded PC John Thorpe. "That certainly was what Sanderson was to tell the police, when they interviewed him. He had heard from Gricewith that he was the murderer in that case", Mr Rivlin said.

The police had found a replica hand gun which fired

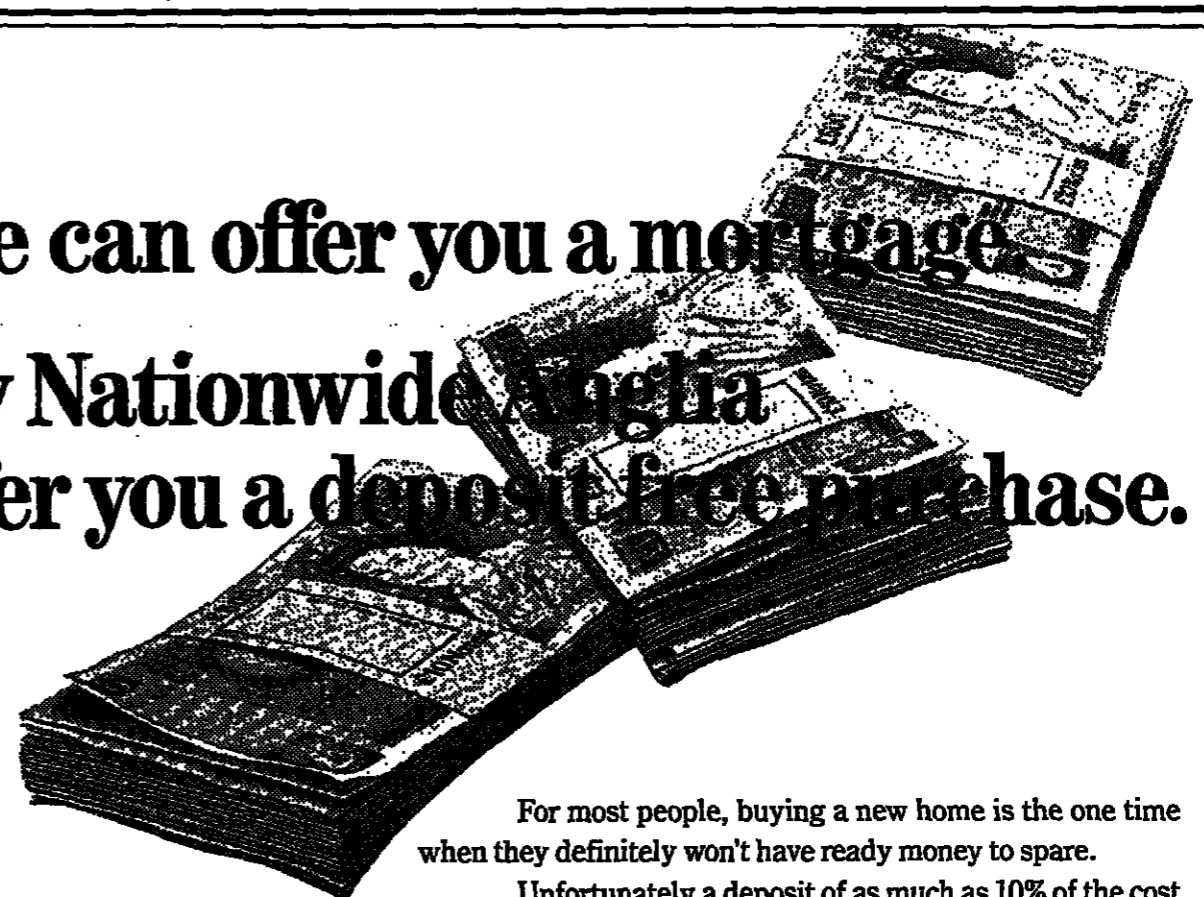
blanks, during a search of Mr Sanderson's home. Police divers later recovered a revolver and live ammunition from the River Ouse, York.

Mr Sanderson allegedly told police that he bought the revolver in 1985 from Gricewith for £130 and had given him the impression it was for use in criminal offences. "But really he had bought it for protection against Gricewith himself", Mr Rivlin said.

Mr Sanderson faces charges relating to an attempted robbery with Gricewith at Hill-aria Supermarket, York, on November 13, 1976. Two other charges are connected with a £3,729 armed robbery at a Lloyds bank branch at Heslington, York, on February 2, 1977.

He is also accused of receiving from Gricewith £1,500 stolen from a post office at Crammer Bank, Moortown, Leeds, on April 28 last year. Other charges involve an attempted armed robbery at a Leeds post office on September 1, 1982. The trial continues today.

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Registrar

Senior registrar

Consultant

Senior medical/dental
Associate specialist

Self-grade practitioner

Salary scales excluding
allowances for training etc.

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By Michael E
Defence Correspondent

Britain's 217,000 soldiers
are to receive pay rises
from 3.5 per cent to
6.7 per cent, taking the salary
of a junior Army
private from £1,705 a year and the
Chief of the Defence
Staff, Admiral Sir John F
to £25,255.

The new pay scale
will mean an increase of
6.7 per cent for
6.7 per cent for
other ranks. All the
soldiers in the
Army will have their
salaries raised from
April, except for
senior officers
and senior officers
who will have
their salaries raised
on April 1.

This year the Royal
Air Force will
increase the pay for
pilots and including
allowances for
operating costs a
concern about
experience leaving
the service.

Special flying
allowances are to
be expanded to
include a new
category of pilot
who have been
flying for
eight years. That
means that they
will be three flying
grades instead of

Awards give nurses 15%, doctors 8%, judges 7%, top Civil Servants and senior officers 5%

Nursing skills and experience attract the biggest increase

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Britain's 500,000 nurses were awarded an average 15.3 per cent pay rise yesterday as part of the "biggest restructuring of staff in the health industry in 40 years".

The package, which will reward nurses with extra skills and experience, also covers midwives and health visitors and gives more money to nurses working in London, where recruitment difficulties have been the most critical.

The generous increases, which the Government has agreed to fund in full and backdate to April 1, conceal individual increases for nurses of as high as 60 per cent and as low as 4 per cent.

The award centres on a new clinical grading structure agreed by staff, which will reward nurses with extra qualifications, such as paediatric or extensive care training, and those with extra experience in certain fields.

Nurses with extra responsibility will also get more to encourage them to remain on the wards rather than opting for management posts. A staff nurse II with five years' experience could see a salary jump of 60 per cent, from £10,500 to £16,350, including a 9 per cent London pay supplement.

Mr John Moore, Secretary

of State for Social Services, reassured nurses that fewer than a tenth would get less than a 6.3 per cent extra in their pay packets. "Less than 3 per cent will get around 4.2 per cent at one end of the range. Some will receive as much as 60 per cent at the other", he said.

He emphasized that the smaller increases would not necessarily go to newly qualified staff. A top-grade nurse sister without additional skills might only get an increase equivalent to the cost of living.

Staff nurses will receive increases of between 7 and 26 per cent and a staff nurse on the top scale working in paediatrics, intensive care or theatres could see a basic salary rise of more than £2,000 a year, or 24 per cent, to £10,650. The starting pay of a ward sister would be £10,000, an increase of 13 per cent.

Mr Moore made clear that it would take some time to implement the new structures, which affect 85 per cent of all nurses. Health authorities would have to regrade their posts and be expected to pay individual salaries to be agreed by October 31.

In the meantime, everyone involved in the new structure would get an interim payment of 4 per cent, backdated to April 1, which nurses should receive in their pay packets by the end of June. "Salaries based on the new structure will be paid once it has been introduced and will be backdated to April 1", he said.

All qualified staff in inner London will get a supplement of 9 per cent, or up to £958 a year. Unqualified staff in inner London and all staff in outer London will receive an extra 5 per cent, or up to £532.

Mr Moore made clear that those supplements were in addition to London weighting. "They mean that a staff nurse working in an intensive care unit in central London could receive an overall pay increase of 25.7 per cent, raising basic pay to £12,538."

However, the independent review body decided not to support the Government's recommendation to introduce flexible pay which would allow health authorities to give discretionary payments where they had particular recruitment difficulties.

Hospital doctors given bigger rises than GPs

Doctors and dentists were yesterday given the full 7.9 per cent increase recommended by their pay review body and backdated to April 1, in spite of fears that this award would be tampered with at the expense of the nurses.

The award is weighted towards doctors working in the hospital and community services and while those staff will get average rises of 8.25 per cent, general practitioners will get only 7 per cent.

The Review Body on Doctors and Dentists Remuneration said it did not consider that the medical profession was suffering from recruitment difficulties although it recognized that the pool of potential students would decline in future years.

The review body report recommends that two-thirds of those subscription rates

The Government yesterday decided to phase in pay rises averaging 5.4 per cent for top Civil Servants and senior officers in the Armed Forces and 7.4 per cent for the judiciary. The 1,970 "top people" now earning between £30,000 and £81,000 a year will get a 4 per cent increase backdated to April 1 this year with the balance on October 1.

Full implementation of the award in the autumn will mean increases of £1,553 at the bottom of the ladder for immigration adjudicators and £4,250 at the top for Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of the Defence Staff, and Sir Robin Butler, Head of the Civil Service and Secretary of the Cabinet.

A step below them Sir Peter Middleton, Permanent Secretary of the Treasury, gets an extra £4,000, taking his salary to £79,750. The 11 Lords of Appeal, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Emslie, Lord President of the Court of Session, and Lord Lowry, Lord Chief Justice in Northern Ireland, receive £4,000 increases, taking their salaries to £78,750.

The 25 permanent secretaries in Whitehall receive £2,500 rises, taking them to £68,500 from October.

Two factors are understood to be behind the Cabinet's decision to stage the award: the fact that people earning high salaries have been the main beneficiaries of the Chancellor's tax-cutting Budget and concern about setting too high a going rate for the rest of the Civil Service, whose salary levels are the subject of far-reaching revision.

The £5.5 million cost of the package will be met from existing Whitehall spending plans. The range of the increases varies from 5.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent for senior Civil Servants and military officers, and from 5.3 per cent to 11.9 per cent for judges.

The recommendations from the Review Body on Top Salaries are the result of a detailed review of the salary scales covering three groups: 1,140 members of the judiciary, 630 senior Civil Servants and 200 senior officers in the Armed Forces. It was the first review since the 1985 report recommending increases of up to 46 per cent for a handful of people, which led to a revolt by 100 Conservative MPs when implemented by the Government.

The report concludes that there is not a case for matching public sector pay among the groups covered with that in the private sector. It notes that salary levels among senior company managers rose by about 10 per cent in the year to last October, but points out that private sector executives have to contend with greater accountability, a greater element of performance-related remuneration and reduced job security than their public sector counterparts.

It says: "In the Civil Service, the number of senior posts has been substantially reduced, but job security in the public sector as a whole remains better than in the private sector."

"These factors suggest that there is not a case for matching the increases in the private sector. Indeed, it has been put to us by the Government that a general increase broadly in line with the rate of inflation would be sufficient."

However, the report goes on to say that so small an increase would ignore other factors to which the Review Body attaches great importance: difficulties in recruiting Circuit

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent



Increases of £4,250: Lord Lane (left), Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse and Sir Robin Butler.

SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Recommended salaries as at April 1, 1988, + numbers in that post as at December 31, 1987

Posts:	Current £	April 1 £	No
Head of Civil Service (Cabinet Secretary)	81,000	85,250	1
Permanent Secretary of the Treasury Secretary	75,750	79,750	1
Permanent Secretary Grade 2 (Deputy Secretary)	65,000	68,500	25
On promotion	59,500	62,750	125
1 year's service in grade*	43,500	45,800	
Discretionary	45,500	48,000	
	48,000	50,600	
	51,000	53,800	
	54,000	57,000	
Grade 3 (Under Secretary)	34,000	35,800	469
On promotion	35,500	37,400	
1 year's service in grade	37,000	39,000	
2 years' service in grade*	39,000	41,100	
Discretionary	41,000	43,200	
	43,000	45,300	

* Normally attainable maximum.



Lord Donaldson of Lynton: £4,000 rise.

JUDICIAL SALARIES

£85,250 (£81,000)	Lord Chief Justice
£78,750 (£74,750)	Lords of Appeal
	Master of the Rolls
	Lord President of the Court of Session
	Lord Chief Justice*
£75,750 (£71,750)	Lord Justice Clerk
	Justices of Appeal
	Inner House Judges of the Court of Session
	President of the Family Division
	Vice-Chancellor
£68,500 (£65,000)	High Court Judges
	Outer House Judges of the Court of Session
£59,500 (£56,000)	London Official Referees
£59,500 (£56,000)	Sherriffs Principal
	Vice-Chancellor (County Palatine of Lancaster)
	Senior Circuit Judges
	Recorder of Liverpool
	Recorder of Manchester
	Recorder of Belfast
	Chief Social Security Commissioners
	Presidents, Industrial Tribunals

	Judge Advocate General
	President, Social Security and Medical Appeal Tribunals
	Chairman, Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
	President, Lands Tribunals
	£45,800 (£43,500)
	Circuit Judges
	Sherriffs
	County Court Judges*
	Social Security Commissioners
	Chairman, Scottish Land Court
	Registrar of Criminal Appeals
	Registrar of Civil Appeals
	Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
	Senior and Chief Masters and Circuit Judges
	Master, Court of Protection
	Chairman, Foreign Compensation Commission
	Registrar, Industrial Tribunals
	Judge Advocate of the Fleet, Vice-Judge Advocate General
	President, VAT Tribunals
	President, Immigration Appeal Tribunal
	Presiding Special Commissioner, Income Tax
	President, Social Security and Medical Appeal Tribunals
	Regional chairman, Social Security and Medical Appeal Tribunals
	Members, Lands Tribunals
	£37,500 (£35,500)
	Chairman, Industrial Tribunals
	Magistrates
	Magistrates
	Magistrates
	Masters and Registrars of the Supreme Court
	Master of the Supreme Court
	County Court Registrars and District Registrars of the High Court
	Circuit Registrars
	President, Pensions Appeal Tribunal
	Vice Presidents, Immigration Appeal Tribunal
	Chief Immigration Adjudicator
	Vice-President (Scotland) and Chairman, VAT Tribunals
	Chairman, Social Security and Medical Appeal Tribunals
	Special Commissioners of Income Tax
	£31,000 (£29,447)
	Immigration Adjudicators

* England, Wales and Scotland and Northern Ireland
* England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
* England and Wales and Scotland
* Northern Ireland.

NURSES PAY AWARDS

Effects of 1988 pay awards on selected nursing grades

	Old Scale (£)	New Scale (£)	Increase (£)	Increase %
Student	4,540-5,170	4,825-5,575	285-405	6.3-7.8
Nursing Aux (a)	4,585-5,855	5,000-6,300	435-445	9.5-7.8
(b)	6,076-6,975	6,510-7,120	381-181	
SEN (c)	6,250-7,750	6,975-8,300	725-550	11.6-7.1
(d)	8,025-9,200	8,725-10,000	700-800	8.7-9.0
Staff Nurse (e)	7,300-8,600	8,025-9,200	725-600	9.9-7.0
(f)	9,200-10,650	10,000-11,500	800-850	8.7-7.9
Ward Sister (g)	9,000-12,000	10,200-12,500	1,200-500	13.3-4.2
(h)	12,025-13,295	13,025-14,295	1,000-1,000	8.3-7.6
(i)	13,450-15,350	14,450-16,350	1,000-1,000	7.4-6.5

† Lettered scales indicate a range of possible outcomes for individual staff on regrading. Broadly, the higher letters for each grade will apply to those with additional skills, qualifications and responsibilities.

Inner London

	Old Scale (£)	New Scale (£)	Increase (£)	Increase %
Student	5,470-6,100	5,996-6,783	526-683	9.6-11.2
Nursing Aux (a)	5,495-6,785	6,180-7,545	685-760	12.5-11.2
(b)	7,309-8,254	8,181-9,126	872-872	11.9-10.5
SEN (c)	7,180-8,680	8,025-9,525	845-845	11.8-9.7
(d)	9,025-10,525	9,870-11,370	845-845	9.4-8.0
Staff Nurse (e)	8,230-9,530	9,075-10,375	845-845	10.3-8.9
(f)	10,025-11,525	10,870-12,370	845-845	8.4-7.3
Ward Sister (g)	9,930-12,930	11,125-14,125	1,195-1,195	12.0-9.3
(h)	12,955-14,455	14,150-15,650	1,195-1,195	9.3-8.2
(i)	15,338-17,238	16,533-18,033	1,195-1,195	7.8-6.9

† Includes £300 Inner London Weighting. ‡ Includes £300 Inner London Weighting and new Inner London Supplement of 3% (max £558 p.a.). § The lettered scales indicate a range of possible outcomes for individual staff on regrading. Broadly, the higher letters for each grade will apply to those with additional skills, qualifications and responsibilities.

HOSPITAL DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

	1987 Recommended scales £	Recommended April 1, 1988 £
House officer	8,810	9,520
	9,370	10,130
	9,930	10,740
Senior house officer	10,980	11,870
	11,720	12,670
	12,460	13,470
Registrar	12,460	13,470
	13,080	14,150
	13,720	14,830
	14,350	15,510
Senior registrar	15,110	16,330
	14,350	15,510
	15,110	16,330
	15,870	17,150
	16,630	17,970
	17,390	18,790
Consultant	18,150	19,610
	25,440	27,500
	27,290	29,500
	29,140	31,500
	30,990	33,500
Senior medical/dental officer	32,840	35,500
Associate specialist	25,700	27,780
	15,240	16,470
	16,880	18,255
	18,540	20,040
	20,190	21,825
	21,840	23,610
	23,490	25,395
	25,700	27,780
Staff grade practitioner	13,720	14,835
	14,845	16,050
	15,970	17,265
	17,095	18,480
	18,220	19,695
	19,345	20,910
	20,470	22,125

(Salary scales excluding earnings from additional sources, such as Class A and B supplements for training grades and extra duty allowances for associate specialists)

Servicemen encouraged to stay

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Britain's 317,000 servicemen are to receive pay rises ranging from 3.5 per cent to 7.3 per cent, taking the salary of the most junior Army private to £5,705 a year and that of the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, to £85,250.

The new pay scales represent an increase of 6 per cent to 7.3 per cent for officers and 3.5 per cent to 6.7 per cent for other ranks. All the men and women in the three armed forces will have their pay rises from April, except for the most senior officers, from major-general to field marshal, who will have theirs staged, on April 1 and October 1.

This year the Review Body on Armed Forces Pay, which handles the pay for all ranks up to and including brigadier has also taken into account growing concern about the premature leaving rate of experienced young RAF pilots.

Special flying allowances are to be expanded on July 1 to include a new top rate of £11.95 a day for aircrew who are being flying for more than eight years. That means there will be three flying allowance rates instead of two, to encourage pilots and navigators to stay in the RAF rather than seek more lucrative jobs in civilian life.

SENIOR OFFICERS OF ARMED FORCES

	Salaries currently in payment £	Recommended April 1988 salaries £
Marshal of the Royal Air Force	81,000	85,250
Field Marshal		
Admiral of the Fleet		
Air Chief Marshal	65,000	68,500
General		
Admiral		
Air Marshal	45,500	48,000
Lieutenant General		
Vice-Admiral		
Air Vice-Marshal	37,000	39,000
Major General		
Rear Admiral		

ARMED FORCES

	Salary (£) Apr 87	Salary (£) Apr 88	% age inc
Brigadier	34,089	36,555	7.2
Colonel	31,450	33,728	7.2
Lt Colonel	27,271	29,248	7.2
Major	21,352	22,849	7.0
Captain	16,272	17,418	7.0
Lieutenant	12,278	13,136	7.0
2nd Lieutenant	8,250	8,799	6.6
Warrant Officer Class 1, Band 9	6,925	7,399	6.8
Warrant Officer Class 2, Band 5	13,710	14,615	6.6
Staff Sergeant, Band 5	10,581	11,242	6.2
Sergeant, Band 5	11,470	12,228	6.6
Corporal, Band 2	10,498	11,158	6.3
Lance Corporal	9,238	9,833	6.4
Private 1, Band 2	8,138	8,625	5.8
Private 4, Band 1	5,512	5,705	3.5

the possibility of introducing new arduous service payments for servicemen abroad. Those extra allowances are already given to those posted to

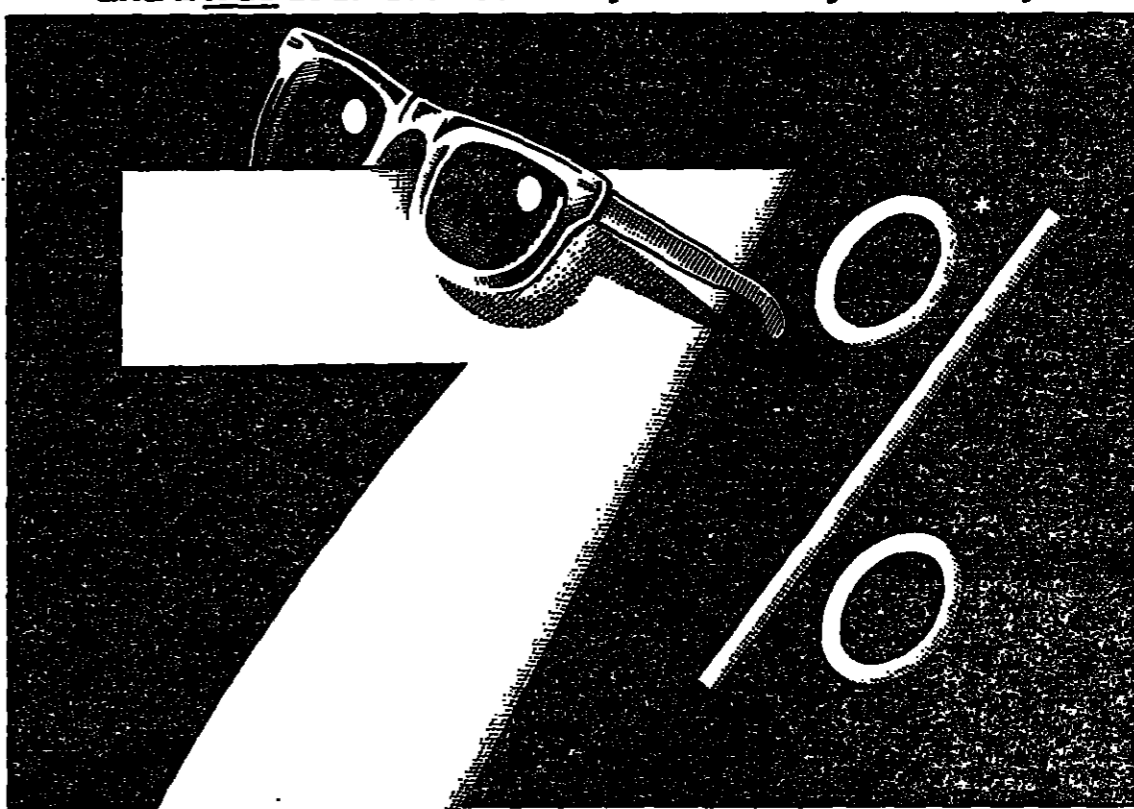
Northern Ireland to "compensate for the exceptionally long and unsocial hours" and to personnel in the Falklands because of the "arduous conditions" there.

This year it considered giving special extra pay to the servicemen in West Germany, "where there are undoubtedly difficulties associated with long service". The review body decided to make no change.

However, there has been concern about retention of service personnel in the Royal Navy, because of the long periods they have to spend away from home, so the review body has recommended a new "long service at sea bonus" from October 1 this year, for those who have served for more than two years at sea.

Under the new arrangement, those with two and less than seven years' total sea service will get £1.92 a day, those with more than seven and less than 10 will be paid £2.45 a day. Anyone with more than 10 years at sea will receive £3.20 a day. However an existing allowance, called "hard lying money", paid to servicemen posted to ships where living conditions fall below a certain standard, is to be abolished, except for submariners.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Aborigine appeal at Queen's party

Perth - The Queen, attending her first important engagement of the bicentenary tour of Australia yesterday, soon found herself embroiled in the plight of the nation's year-long celebration (Christopher Morris writes).

At a garden party in the grounds of Government House in Perth, Western Australia, Mr Kenneth Colbung, an Aboriginal, stepped from the crowd to hand a petition to Yuga Bidiyer - the boss lady - asking the Queen to issue a proclamation granting an amnesty to all Aboriginal prisoners.

Mr Colbung was asked if the Queen had been annoyed. "Why should she take offence?" he said. "She is a very responsible lady. I had previously met the Duke of Edinburgh on another visit and he told me to keep up the fight for the Aboriginal people, and that's precisely what I am doing."

Nato visit cancelled

Copenhagen (AFP) - Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, has cancelled a planned visit to Denmark next week amid deepening controversy over the Danish Parliament's approval of a ban on all warships carrying nuclear arms. The cancellation follows a decision by Nato and Denmark to transfer to Brussels a meeting of the Nato Nuclear Planning Group originally scheduled to be held on April 27 and 28 in the Danish town of Kolding.

The Danish Prime Minister, Mr Poul Schluter, has voiced deep concern over the implications for Denmark's role in Nato following the anti-nuclear ban pushed through Parliament by the Opposition on April 14. The ban would bar Nato warships from Danish ports and Nato leaders said this could have serious consequences for allied strategy and for the movement of troop reinforcements in times of crisis.

Reshuffle in Prague

Czechoslovakia's first Cabinet reshuffle for two decades yesterday brought little sign of change to a country which is only tentatively embracing glasnost (David Bassett writes).

The reshuffle, while reducing by a quarter the number of Cabinet posts, fell far short of the radical changes which many Czechoslovaks have been hoping for since the appointment late last year of the new leader, Mr Milos Jakes.

When Mr Jakes took over hopes were raised that the benefits of glasnost would swiftly descend on the country. Yesterday's reshuffle, if unprecedented in the country since the Soviet invasion of 1968, still underlines that change in Czechoslovakia will be much slower than in many other parts of the Eastern bloc.

Cash for internees

Washington - Forty-three years after they were released from US internment camps, Japanese-Americans are to be given compensation for their detention during the Second World War (Michael Binyon writes).

By 69 to 27 votes, the Senate passed a Bill on Wednesday extending an official national apology to the survivors of the camps and authorizing \$1.3 billion (£687 million) compensation for their "great injustice". Some 125,000 Japanese-Americans were interned at the outbreak of war; the estimated 62,000 still alive will receive \$20,000 each. During the debate, the Senate rejected attempts to link compensation to reparations from Japan for the attack on Pearl Harbour.

Child 'pushers' fear

New York - Drug merchants are arming children with high-powered handguns in the latest trend in New York's deadly "crack" trade (Charles Bremner writes).

"We are going to have a monster on our hands," said Inspector Philip Sheridan, a senior Brooklyn police officer, after three young suspected crack pushers, one aged 12, were arrested carrying semi-automatic pistols.

Police say dealers in the cheap cocaine derivative are arming "baby-dealers" both to give them status and to shoot the competition. The children, who act as couriers and street peddlars, face far less severe sentences than adults. The crack trade is being blamed by police for a big jump in the murder rate in US cities.

KGB agent released

Berne (AP) - A professed Soviet agent has been freed from custody and expelled because there was insufficient evidence that he spied in Switzerland, the Federal Prosecutor's Office said yesterday. The engineer, a Spanish national, admitted passing documents from a technical institute to the KGB while he was living in West Germany, but an investigation was dropped owing to a lack of evidence.

The man, who was barred from re-entering Switzerland, had lived in Zurich since 1985. He worked in the research department of a Swiss electronics company. He was detained on March 23 on a tip resulting from a sweep by West German authorities that caught 10 suspected Soviet agents the week before.

Algeria makes hijackers 'non-persons'

From Robert Fisk, Algiers

The hijackers of flight KU422 have become non-persons in Algeria. The Government-controlled press and radio, Ministers and Algerian diplomats simply do not refer to them. It is as if they never were, which is how the Algerians - and probably the rest of the Arab world - would like them to be.

In reality - which is a fragile substance in matters of this kind, especially in Algeria - the gunmen who released their last 31 hostages from the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 at Algiers airport early on Wednesday morning have probably reached Damascus on their way to Beirut for west Beirut is the home for at least three of them. Politically as well as physically, they have disappeared.

"Why do you ask these questions? Have you asked these questions on the other occasions when there were hijacks?" was the response of Mr Muhammad Abderrahmany, the editor of the largest Algerian daily *Moudjahid*, when I asked where the hijackers had been taken. "People who ask questions like this," he said, "are trying to stop Algeria getting credit for this successful end to the hijack."

And credit - if so humble a word can be used for the effusion of self-congratulation evident in the local press here - is what the Algerians are now receiving from the rest of the Arab world. Not, in their view, without reason; once again, Algeria has been able to save human life from destruction and a brother Arab state - Kuwait - from embarrassment.

Experts condemn Whitehall's hardline stance

By Andrew McEwen

The Government's hard line attitude towards Algeria following the deal to end the Kuwait Airways hijacking has aroused concern and disbelief among a wide range of experts, MPs and former diplomats.

A range of opinion-makers was contacted by *The Times* immediately after the deal, which apparently allowed the hijackers to go free in return for the safe release of the passengers and crew, and most were sympathetic to the dilemma the Algerian Government had faced.

When contacted again yesterday, after hints that Britain would discuss Algeria's role at three international forums and might call for an air boycott if it was proved the hijackers had escaped punishment, they were surprised by the government view.

Sir James Craig, the former British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and now director of the Middle East Association, said: "I share the feeling that it is awful that people can commit

murder and get away with it, but I don't find it easy to make up my mind about Algeria's role. I don't feel there is any black and white method of looking at this affair. Before we condemn Algeria we should have a long talk with them."

Mr Jim Lester, the Conservative MP for Broxtowe and a member of the select foreign affairs committee, doubted that it would have been possible to obtain the safe release of the passengers and crew without letting the hijackers go. "I think it is the price that has to be paid in this instance. The only other option was a military intervention." When told that there were hints of invoking the 1978 Bonn Declaration, which could lead to an air boycott, he said: "I think it would be rather foolish to raise it to that level."

A prominent former diplomat described talk of invoking the declaration as "mostly bluffing and puffing", and said it was very unlikely that the rest of the Group of Seven,

Britain's partners in the Bonn Declaration, would accept it. "The hard line is mostly bluster, although it does have a certain deterrent value," he added.

Mr George Robertson, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, said: "It is still not clear what (Algeria's) alternatives were. This is not the time to rush to judgement. We agree that these people are murderers and criminals, but before we convict Algeria let us see the evidence."

Sir Anthony Parsons, the former Ambassador to Iran, said that although the deal was imperfect, the fact that the 17 prisoners held in Kuwaiti jails had not been released, and that all but two passengers had survived, made it an 80 per cent success.

But he doubted the effectiveness of international political attempts to deter hijacking and said that a more technical approach was needed. He advocated an agreement among airlines to impose boycotts on airports where security was found to be lax. Mr

From Paul Valley, Fao, Iraq

Soldiers of Iraq's Seventh Corps were yesterday in celebratory mood as they explored the Iranian defences along the Fao peninsula, a strategically vital salient this week in their most important land victory for more than five years.

At the tip of the peninsula, which commands the point where the Shatt al Arab strait meets the Arabian Gulf and controls access to Iraq's main deepwater port at Basra, troops gleefully turned the pillbox's high-powered binoculars on to the Iranian mainland, to which a handful of the Ayatollah Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards had retreated.

The rest of the force of between 20,000 and 30,000 Iranian troops which had held Fao for the past two years had been killed or captured, according to a spokesman for the Iraqi High Command at the scene.

Elsewhere Iraqi soldiers were shooting up portraits of the Ayatollah and ripping to shreds the Iranian banners which festooned the area's military posts and offices. Others were rummaging through well-stocked munition dumps whose

contents ranged from millions of rounds of small-arms ammunition through rocket propelled grenades to 150 mm shells.

But 20 concrete silos which observers believed once housed Iran's Chinese-made Silkorm missiles were empty, giving credence to reports by diplomats that the Iraqi offensive came because they knew their enemy had pulled out a large proportion of its troops to reinforce the northern end of the 720-mile battlefield, where Iran has recently been on the offensive. These reports claim that the Iraqi force, said to number 35,000 troops, moved to liberate Fao after US satellite intelligence revealed that Iranian defences were much depleted.

The scale of the damage left little doubt that a substantial battle had taken place. Dozens of American M60 tanks, supplied to Iran before the revolution, littered the crumbling mudflats of the marshy strip of land. The city of Fao was reduced to a few piles of rubble by the artillery bombardment which preceded the Iraqi attack. The storage tanks of its long-defunct oil refinery were collapsed.

How much of this damage was

already inflicted during the past two years of sporadic bombardment was hard to discern. Though the sweet, sickly odour of rotting flesh hung still in the hot, dusty air, most of the bodies had been buried. Reporters saw only about 200 Iranian prisoners being taken north in army trucks, though Iraqi officials said there were many hundreds more.

But if the scale of the battle was unclear, there was no doubt as to the psychological value of the victory.

After the initial Iraqi advances into Iran when it first invaded in September 1980, after the fall of the Shah, all of the land battles have gone in favour of the Iranian regular army and the "human waves" of the Ayatollah's Revolutionary Guards, committed to martyrdom in battle.

Iraq's initiatives in the seven-year war have been confined to air attacks on the Iranian oil industry and those foreign tankers buying from it. Its superior air and missile capability have brought fear to Iranian cities, which have been regularly blitzed. Iraqis now feel that the success of their surprise offensive to retake Fao is a turning point in their fortunes on land. Yesterday

they were proudly displaying the liberated area to the international press and to military attaches from foreign embassies in Baghdad.

There was a relaxed, even festive, air along the 12 miles of the peninsula which until last week was under the control of Islamic fundamentalists calling themselves the Supreme Islamic Council of Iraq. Its headquarters, in a heavily protected bunker, was now a billet for Iraqi officers. All around, Iraqi tanks were now well dug into the new defensive positions, but their guns were muzzled against the insistent dust, and washing hung on lines between the armoured vehicles.

Although shells exploded occasionally in the vicinity, the firing from Iran across the canal was desultory and the Iraqi artillery response just as perfunctory. Soldiers ran for cover only when an explosion seemed uncomfortably close. Then they emerged with sheepish grins to continue their explorations.

"Look, chemical weapons!" one Iraqi NCO cried triumphantly, waving a tiny, innocuous-looking phial, as if in justification of the recent use of gas against Iranian troops and

Kurdish civilians. It was largely a pathetic scene.

Inside one building was a heap of science textbooks in Farsi - an indication of the presence of revolutionary students rather than regular soldiers among the Iranian defence.

On the floor lay a pass, permitting some Iranian soldier to spend the weekend off base. He would not be needing it now.

LONDON: The Royal Navy yesterday resumed its protection of British-flagged ships in the Gulf, two days after suspending it amid fighting between Iranian and US naval forces (Andrew McEwen writes). But the continuing higher level of risk was underlined by the discovery of another mine by a Dutch-Belgian minehunting force.

The Armilla Patrol stopped offering protection to ships on Tuesday to discourage them from attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Seven oil tankers and two container ships were stranded inside the Gulf.

HMS Gloucester, a destroyer, restarted operations by accompanying one vessel out of the Gulf and was scheduled to accompany four ships on the return later.

Demotion of Shultz looks for progress in Moscow

Kremlin's No 2 denied

By Mary Dejevsky

A report that the second in command in the Soviet leadership, Mr Yegor Ligachov, had lost significant parts of his leadership portfolio was officially denied yesterday.

A Soviet foreign ministry spokesman said there had been no redistribution of responsibilities within the leadership; Mr Ligachov was simply on holiday.

The spokesman was responding to rumours that Mr Ligachov, who is widely believed to be at odds with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, over the pace of the reform programme, had been demoted at a party meeting on April 16.

Rumours of a Gorbachov-Ligachov clash began after the publication of a long article in the Moscow newspaper *Sovietskaya Rossiya* six weeks ago, which represented the ideological and political objectives to Mr Gorbachov's programme of perestroika.

Purporting to be a letter from a Leningrad lecturer, the article defended Stalin, called into question the socialist credentials of perestroika and complained that the proposed reforms would dilute the leading role of the working class and the Communist Party.

There was speculation in Moscow that Mr Ligachov, whose enthusiasm for perestroika has been at best lukewarm, was behind the article, which contained near-quotations from some of his speeches.

Three weeks after its appearance, the article was condemned as an example of "old-style" thinking by *Pravda*, and *Sovietskaya Rossiya* printed an apology for what it called its "misjudgement" in publishing it. Many

leading intellectuals have since expressed their unmitigated support for perestroika in letters to the press.

On Wednesday, *Literaturnaya Gazeta* printed a long article by Mr Fyodor Burlatsky, a political commentator, setting out the ideological justification for perestroika and condemning Stalinist state socialism as an aberration. Mr Burlatsky also called for the economy to be more market-orientated.

Despite the official denial of his demotion, Mr Ligachov - whose responsibilities include ideological matters and the media - may still be in trouble. According to two Moscow editors, he has now ceased to oversee their work. They must now defer to Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev, another member of the Secretariat and an ideology specialist, who is considered a close ideological ally of Mr Gorbachov.

Last year, during a visit to Paris, Mr Ligachov was at pains to deny that there was any split between himself and Mr Gorbachov. To the surprise of many, however, he disclosed that it was he, rather than the General Secretary, who chaired regular meetings of the Secretariat.

While Mr Ligachov's eclipse would strengthen Mr Gorbachov's position in the run-up to the party conference in June, it may not make progress towards reform much swifter. The platform represented by Mr Ligachov appeals to a broad constituency: to ideological purists, to party officials who stand to lose privileges and to workers who fear redundancy.

All these groups have the power to retard the proposed reform programmes.



Mr Shultz admiring the interior of a Foreign Ministry mansion in Moscow yesterday as Mr Shevardnadze looks on.

Talks crucial to next arms pact

From Our Correspondent, Moscow

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, met here yesterday to open talks which will be crucial to the chances of a strategic arms treaty being signed at next month's Reagan-Gorbachov summit meeting in Moscow.

But instead of devoting the first session of their regular talks to outstanding problems which are holding up Geneva talks on halving US and Soviet long-range missiles, the two ministers concentrated most of the day on human rights and regional conflicts, according to the US State Department spokesman, Mr Charles Redman.

In central Moscow, meanwhile, Soviet security forces broke up a demonstration by about 200 reformists who have been denied exit visas to

Israel. They staged their protest as Mr Shultz was meeting a small group of reformists yesterday evening at the residence of the US Consul General, Mr Max Robinson.

When Mr Redman told a news conference that the US and Soviet ministers had issued fresh instructions to their arms negotiators, but had not themselves discussed the strategic arms treaty, the Soviet arms official, Mr Viktor Karpov, reacted with irritation.

In an interview with Tass Mr Karpov said it was "difficult to speak of any progress on issues of nuclear missile disarmament by the results of the first half of yesterday's talks". The negotiations had focused on human rights, he said.

Mr Karpov added that human rights were "I believe, not

the most important" part of the agenda.

"We are waiting with impatience for a time when it becomes clear what political luggage... George Shultz has brought to Moscow."

Mr Karpov heads the foreign ministry's disarmament department.

Both Washington and Moscow have committed themselves to aiming for the strategic arms treaty to be signed by Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov at their summit, which begins on May 29.

But Mr Shevardnadze also said yesterday that progress depended on proposals that Mr Shultz was bringing with him.

Mr Redman said that the US delegation was "making every effort" to conclude a strategic arms treaty in time for the summit. "We have

come here to solve problems, to do some hard work on difficulties which exist and to produce results," he said.

The main problems still to be resolved on the treaty concern air-launched cruise missiles, land-based mobile missiles, and sea-launched cruise missiles, according to Mr Redman.

Dr David Owen, who arrived here on Monday for a seminar with five arms experts hosted by *Pravda*, said yesterday that he understood after talks with Soviet officials that Moscow was in no hurry for a strategic arms treaty to be concluded by the summit.

The Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, Mr Vadim Perfilov, told reporters at the brief meeting with Mr Redman that "our future work... will depend a great deal on the outcome of this meeting."

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BEY NONAL WRENT ACCOUNT

Botha hints blacks could have role in a reformed Cabinet

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town

President Botha yesterday sketched out plans for a move towards a form of race federation in South Africa and said that more people from outside Parliament, including by implication some black Africans, should be appointed to the national Cabinet.

Speaking in Parliament here during the annual debate on his department's budget, Mr Botha also proposed the restoration of the post of Prime Minister, abolished when the present Constitution was introduced in 1984.

In a further tentative lifting of the veil over the Government's future plans, Mr Botha disclosed that the Government was working on draft legislation providing for new elected regional assemblies for those blacks living outside the existing tribal homelands.

The President said that these bodies would "offer these communities authority over their own affairs that affect them", and "could also serve as a basis for their participation in a formal forum for deliberation". He added that the legislation was being drawn up in consultation with black leaders.

Turning to the troubled relations between church and state, Mr Botha asserted that the Government was not seeking confrontation, and that he did "not expect church leaders to agree with me in everything".

But he warned church members that they must not allow themselves to be "taken in tow by a few radical clergy and certain academics who are attempting to force Liberation Theology on the churches

from above". He mentioned no names but clearly had Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among others, in mind.

In a briefing on the President's speech, a senior government source encouraged journalists to speculate that blacks would be included in the Cabinet if, in Mr Botha's words, the President were given "greater leeway to appoint persons from outside Parliament".

At present, the Cabinet is all white, except for one Indian Minister without Portfolio, A Coloured politician, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, previously also had a Cabinet seat, but was dismissed last year.

Observers here pointed out that Mr Botha's remarks might also presage the appointment of more technocrats and military men to the Cabinet, continuing the shift of power away from the National Party and Parliament to the State President's Office and what some commentators here have dubbed "multi-racial dictatorship".

Under the 1984 Constitution, a tricameral Parliament for whites, Coloureds and Indians, but excluding the 73 per cent of the population classified as black, was set up, and the roles of President and Prime Minister were combined in a single executive presidency.

Mr Botha said yesterday that he now believed the President should concern himself with such matters as "population relations, macro-economic policy and the determination of financial priorities, security and foreign

affairs", leaving the day-to-day administration to the Cabinet "under the chairmanship of a Prime Minister appointed by the State President".

Government sources said that elected regional assemblies might be set up for other race groups as well as blacks.

Mr Botha said that the Government was still pursuing its plan for a "national council" for negotiations with blacks but was prepared to consider a suggestion by a recently deceased black homeland leader that it should be renamed the "Great Indaba" (the Zulu word for a tribal conference) and be given a less formal character.

JOHANNESBURG: A South African freed from police custody in the intensive care unit of a hospital during a guerrilla raid two years ago, has been convicted of murder, attempted murder and 14 counts of terrorism (Reuter and AFP report).

A Supreme Court in the Natal provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg on Wednesday also found Gordon Webster, aged 24, an African National Congress member, guilty of planning to seize hostages to use in bargaining for other prisoners.

He was shot and captured by police in April 1986, but was freed from the hospital in May by friends. One hospital visitor was killed and four people injured. He was recaptured last September.

Meanwhile, guerrillas killed two black policemen in a gun battle yesterday near the Alice, in the homeland of Ciskei, police said.

Israelis relive march to independence



Israeli settlers, bearing flags, marching near the West Bank town of Gush Etzion yesterday to mark Israel's 40th birthday.

US seals ties with 'lasting' vows

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday celebrated its 40th independence day by signing a memorandum of understanding with the United States which underlines how much it relies on US aid and support to maintain its independence.

Signed simultaneously in Washington by President Reagan and in Jerusalem by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, the document comes very close to doing so.

Apart from agreeing to continue the "unique dialogue" between the two countries through periodic meetings at senior ministerial levels, the memorandum also institutionalizes annual meetings between defence chiefs and economic officials.

At the talks, joint military exercises will be planned and there will be a review of "Israel's requests for security assistance in the light of

current threat assessments and US budgetary capabilities." The two sides will also agree on proposed levels of security and economic assistance.

With any chance of success for Mr George Shultz's Middle East peace plan receding daily, the document demonstrates graphically that there is no question of the US using sanctions to pressure Israel into negotiations that Mr Shamir does not want.

While Mr Shamir was busy signing the document, the country took the day off work to celebrate independence in the traditional manner, picnicking in the parks and touring military bases packed with American equipment.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, whose popularity has suffered because of his support for the US Secretary of State's plan, paid a visit to troops in Bethlehem, where he praised them and the work they were doing. With the polls showing that the electorate is increasingly in favour of a tough, hard line policy against the Palestinian uprising, Mr Peres appears to be trying to show that he is no more ready to give in to violence than is the Prime Minister.

Although not as vital as the American gift, the Soviet Union apparently gave its own 40th birthday present by granting exit visas to 50 Jews who, led by Mr Lev Foreman, a refusenik for 14 years, arrived in Israel yesterday.

France also marked the day with a signing of an agreement at the Louvre in Paris for cultural exchanges with Israel.

38 held in Korean election violence

Seoul (AFP) — South Korean police yesterday detained 38 people in connection with election violence, including 31 members of the ruling party accused of beating up two opposition supporters.

The 31 campaign workers from the Democratic Justice Party had been held captive by opposition supporters for seven hours after the incident. Dispute ends: Workers at the Daewoo shipyard called a 32-day dispute, that had led to a strike then a lock-out, after they were offered a 20 per cent pay increase.

Sudan battle

Khartoum (AFP) — Sudanese troops killed 500 rebels in a fierce six-hour battle around Nasir in the Upper Nile province. More than 40 government troops were killed.

6,000 freed

Taipei (AFP) — Taiwan will free more than 6,000 prisoners today under a clemency order to mark the 100th day after the death of President Chiang.

Blast kills 22

Bangkok (AP) — Panastany rangers accidentally set off a phosphorus bomb last night, killing at least 22 people and seriously injuring 20 others.

Boats seized

Macao (Reuters) — Chinese customs officers have seized two fishing boats and 16 Hong Kong sailors, accused of smuggling tobacco. Macao officials said.

Suicide pact

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Two lovers, whose parents told them they could not marry, killed themselves by detonating a bag of explosives at a bus station in Shaogwan.

Bomb arrests

Paris (AFP) — Police have detained 22 people in connection with a bombing at the office of a court bailiff in Paris last weekend in which two people were injured.

Chinese soap

Peking (AFP) — Chinese television is to make a 40-part series based on *The Golden Lotus*, the country's best-known erotic novel, which was written in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Hemmed in

Nairobi (AFP) — About 7,700 employees of a sack manufacturing company have been dismissed after they defied an order to resume work following a dispute over advance salaries.

Death squads and drug barons fuel Colombia violence

From Geoffrey Matthews

Bogotá

Returning to Bogotá recently after six months' exile in Europe, Señor Jorge Child, an economist and journalist, emphasized that his homecoming did not mean he saw any improvement in the climate of violence from which he had fled.

Indeed, he thought the situation far worse and predicted that the horizon would get blacker still: "We are on the way to the 'Lebanonization' of Colombia."

In effect, Amnesty International this week said that Colombia was already there. In a report on what is now unquestionably Latin America's most violent country, yet paradoxically still a democracy,

Amnesty noted that 14,000 Colombians were murdered in 1986, "the highest proportion in the world for a country not at war". Colombians have a 1-in-2,000 chance of being murdered, according to Amnesty, and homicide is now the principal cause of death for males aged between 15 and 44.

The murder rate assuredly rose in 1987 and seems set to go through the roof this year. Violence has been fuelled over the last decade by the country's emergence as the centre of the continental cocaine business. But Amnesty classified more than 1,000 murders last year as political assassinations committed by paramilitary death squads which have decimated the ranks of the fledgling socialist movement,

the Unión Patriótica. Yet in a year which has seen the assassination of the nation's Attorney General by the drugs mafia, a series of massacres in which 130 peasants have been slaughtered by death squads, savage guerrilla action and no respite from the endemic street crime, Amnesty's report was accepted with the fatalism that now characterizes Colombian attitudes to violence. In fact, it mainly confirmed what their newspapers have long chronicled. Amnesty is respected here and there were few attacks on its partiality.

An aide to President Barco ventured that the report was exaggerated, and the Defence Minister, General Rafael Samudio, bristled at Amnesty's charge that the death

squads were manned by serving military personnel "under high military command". Few Colombians doubt that members of the armed forces are indeed involved, but wonder how high is high.

Although some 550 socialist party members have been murdered since the movement was founded three years ago, the Unión Patriótica has always stopped short of accusing General Samudio of orchestrating the killings.

Señor Child says Colombia cannot be compared with Chile. "Someone persecuted by Pinochet (Chile's President) can neither write in newspapers nor express his political opinion anywhere. In contrast... we can freely write in the press, we have bodyguards paid by

the Government, and so, telling the story abroad, they ask us: 'If it's not the Government who are persecuting you, who is persecuting you?' Then one tries to explain that there are paramilitary groups which are not the Government but may have something to do with the armed forces, and then these people understand even less."

Colombia has long been a violent country. The assassination of a popular Liberal leader in 1948 triggered a bloody sectarian conflict known as "La Violencia", in which an estimated 300,000 died.

The violence now is also being stoked by Colombia's drug barons. Apart from the countless murders they have commissioned of government ministers, judges, police offi-

cers, lawyers and journalists, there is evidence that they are also behind the death squads responsible for recent massacres of banana industry workers in the Caribbean region of Urubá.

Yet it is not only the violence that is alarming but the stoicism with which it is accepted. An anthropologist, Señor Carlos Alberto Uribe, observes: "It's incredible that now nobody's talking about the death of Carlos Mauro Hoyos (the murdered Attorney General). Why do we so quickly forget things?" The increasingly remote President Barco, aged 65, is under fire for failing to assert leadership in response to the violence, and his critics wonder whether he too is not a victim of this fatalism.

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Candidates jostling for France's soft centre

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The leader of the French Socialist Party, M Lionel Jospin, has a nice turn of phrase and a sharp, if one-eyed, understanding of politics in his country.

When M Francois Mitterrand became President in 1981, after a campaign fought almost exclusively across the traditional left-right divide, he observed that the centre in France was like the Bermuda Triangle: "Whoever approaches it disappears".

Seven years on and the same M Jospin happily waved goodbye to M Mitterrand as the President and candidate departed on the journey that would take his campaign, stripped of all things Socialist, straight into the centre. What is more, touchingly in this or less simultaneously in this notorious black hole of politics are his main rivals on the right, M Jacques Chirac and M Raymond Barre.

This unabashed pursuit of the middle ground reflects a fundamental change in the voting public between the two presidential elections. *Le changement* of 1981, the prospect - delightful to some, appalling to others - of a huge upheaval of society, has been left without trace. In its place is *la continuité*, duller but

speeches on the campaign trail became increasingly indistinguishable as they elbowed each other for space in the middle ground. No wonder a sizeable chunk of the electorate remains uncertain which of them to back.

But if the next president will be chosen by a significantly less ideological electorate, the

elections if he fails to find the right partner "within 24 hours". The risk is that today's voters, with their taste for balance, will return another conservative majority that M Chirac would ensure made another bout of *cohabitation* infinitely more difficult to achieve. Not much centrism there.

As some observers see it, a M Chirac as president could be obliged to practise a form of *cohabitation* with the forces of the right, as he backed M Barre. In the *The Economist's* apt phrase "like the *Sijoux* or the *Zulus*, French conservatives are not one tribe but many", and their skirmishing, undoubtedly helped hand the Socialists victory in 1981.

Just so, say the Prime Minister's advisers: all the more reason for forming a single conservative party immediately after the election.

It is not easy to know exactly where to fit M Jean-Marie Le Pen into the presidential equation. No body could accuse the National Front leader of seeking the middle ground, or of avoiding the more contentious issues. His dream of squeezing the lackadaisical M Barre into last place among the "big four"



A sizeable chunk of the electorate remains uncertain

unmistakably closer to what today's electorate is seeking. This blurring of the traditional lines between left and right among a clear majority of the French has inevitably influenced the business of campaigning for their votes.

The past two years of power-sharing between M Mitterrand and M Chirac may not have thrilled the politicians, but the people apparently liked it enough to contemplate something similar again.

The surprising result is that the leading candidates' personalities and appearance (especially on television) now count for much more than their policies. Since none of them could risk going out on a limb with ideas that might dent their centrist image,

M Le Pen's block of first round votes could be vital

may ultimately be beyond reach, but M Le Pen's block of first round votes could be an important, conceivably vital, factor - and not just on the right. At the last count, up to 25 per cent of his supporters intended to ignore the ex-Mitterrand in the run-off.

Finally, with just 48 hours to go before voting begins, it seemed particularly appropriate that the closing exchanges between the three candidates had nothing to do with issues, policies or platforms. For M Mitterrand, M Chirac and M Barre, the burning question of yesterday was how to stage the keenly awaited television debate between the winners of the first round.

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Reforms may bring Italian Communists in from the cold

From Roger Boyes, Rome

The Italian Parliament, set to approve the new Government of Signor Ciriaco De Mita, yesterday showed signs of an intriguing new alignment: the Communist Party, out in the cold for a decade, will back the Christian Democratic Government in its attempts to overhaul the political system.

The new Communist Party, according to its chairman Signor Alessandro Natta, is willing to support the five-party governing coalition in a radical reform of the parliamentary system.

Many of the proposed reforms—for example, setting a 5 per cent hurdle to prevent the many fringe parties from entering Parliament—are impractical at the moment because small parties within the Government (Liberals, Social Democrats, Republicans) would suffer.

They would threaten to break ranks if big changes were introduced in the proportional representation voting system.

But with the support of the two largest coalition parties, the Christian Democrats (with 34 per cent of the vote) and the Socialists (with 14 per cent), and the acquiescence of the Communist opposition (with 29 per cent), there would be no more obstacles. The small parties are naturally nervous.

The Socialist Party leader, Signor Bettino Craxi, will be vigilant; he does not want the Communists to displace him as the main partner of the Christian Democrats.

The Communists gave indirect support to the Christian Democratic-led Government in 1976—in return for which they were given the chairmanship

of seven parliamentary committees and the position of parliamentary Speaker—and collaborated in forming another administration in 1978. But the kidnap and murder of their main Christian Democratic interlocutor, Aldo Moro, dashed any hopes of gaining Cabinet positions.

This time, says Signor Natta, Communist support would be for a programme of institutional reform. Signor De Mita, in his parliamentary address this week, said that Italy was stuck in a crisis because of the shortcomings of political institutions.

His readiness to consider "constructive opposition" by the Communists reflects not only this fear of crisis, but also his determination to create a government that will last its full term until 1992, a crucial year for Europe.

In an interview with *The Times*, Signor Giorgio Napolitano, number three in the Italian Communist politburo, made plain what the Communists want. They do not want an abolition of the secret ballot—that would take away one of the Communists' key parliamentary weapons.

"Instead, we want Parliament to be revised as a structure. For example, a one-chamber parliament—though we know this idea is not accepted by the other parties—or at least a differentiation in the roles of the two chambers," he said. The number of deputies should be reduced, and changes in the strict proportional representation system should apply to at least one of the chambers.

"The idea of a five-party coalition is limited, and its life

is precarious. It is divided, has no self-confidence, cannot believe in itself—how can such a government answer the key problems? To reform, the Christian Democrats need to consider an open solution (involving the Communists)—but we don't want a situation where the ideas are predetermined and the Communist Party is supposed to say only yes or no."

Bridge-building of a different sort has quietly been taking place in Rome. The Pope, once regarded by Moscow as a fierce anti-communist crusader, has been using the occasion of the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in Russia to make surprisingly conciliatory noises towards the Kremlin. His strategy emerges from a jigsaw of public and private statements, all indicating a new willingness to build bridges with Moscow.

The latest signal came this week in a message to Ukrainian Catholics marking 1,000 years of Christianity there. The Ukrainian Church, which for the most part has to function underground, has been at odds with the Russian Orthodox hierarchy who are also celebrating their 1,000-year anniversary. But the Pope carefully balances his words and says nothing that could be taken amiss by the Orthodox Church.

In a recent *ad limina* meeting (a regular briefing visit) with Lithuanian bishops, the Pope went further, appearing to take Moscow's *vestnik* seriously. "A wind of change appears to be blowing in your society and awakens living expectations in millions."

Filipino farmers press for break-up of big estates



Filipino peasants, some wearing masks, riding on a cart pulled by a water buffalo yesterday during a protest in Manila in support of demands for sweeping agricultural reforms. About 10,000 peasant farmers took part in the demonstration, saying that they had lost faith in President Aquino's promise of land

reform (Hamphrey Hawksley writes). Many of the demonstrators had started the march from outlying provinces, collecting thousands of signatures from supporters. Police backed up by anti-riot units were deployed throughout Manila. No serious trouble was reported. The demonstration was staged to coincide

with the start of a joint congressional committee which hopes to complete land reform legislation within the next two months. The aim is to carve up huge coconut, sugar and other estates and sell them in small blocks to millions of peasants. But the draft legislation has been diluted with amendments pushed through by the

landowning lobby in the Philippines, and it is doubtful that the new laws will offer the sort of reform envisaged when President Marcos was overthrown. The peasants, a key force in the "people power" revolt against the former president, now say they have no hope of genuine land reform from the Government of Mrs Aquino.

Soviet Army under fire for bullying recruits

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Just as the Soviet Army is preparing to leave Afghanistan, a national scandal has erupted in the official media over ritualized bullying and violent initiation techniques regularly employed against young conscripts beginning their two-year compulsory national service.

According to the disclosures in *Nedelnya*, the popular government weekly, older national servicemen and NCOs, going under the facetious nickname of "grandads", inflict widespread violence and hu-

miliation on new recruits but, because of official silence, are infrequently punished.

"A Soviet source said that the "grandads" at the centre of the scandal are often themselves only in their late teens or early twenties. Frequently, because of the way that the practice has been allowed to go unchecked, they are merely repeating the violence inflicted on them earlier in their service careers.

Western observers said there was a similarity between the malpractice exposed inside the Soviet Army and

recent cases of bullying within the British forces. But the evidence which has come to light indicates that ritualized violence in the Soviet ranks is on a more serious scale.

Colonel Dmitri Shkulanov, a professor at Moscow's Frunze military academy, wrote: "It is hard to learn about the instances of abnormal, disgraceful relationships among servicemen in our Army. For me, who started his military career at the age of 11 and is now an armed services veteran, it is

even more painful to learn about such things.

"How could it happen that such behaviour became possible? The problem should be studied seriously in order to root out such phenomena... Our families are now raising 'mother's darlings', men who become limp when encountering difficulties rather than combating them."

The colonel's angry letter and others, in a huge postbag on the subject received by the weekly, were written in response to an article by a young

Soviet journalist so horrified at the practices he discovered during his national service that he wrote an exposé. Previously the taboo topic was only covered in dissident journals, which had also received many letters of complaint.

Western military experts, who had been aware from intelligence reports of the violent practices, believe that such behaviour, combined with dismally poor pay, shortages of basics and the rigours of Afghanistan, has been responsible for low morale.

Feud splits opposition parties in Bangladesh

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

Barely three months after uniting to lead violent street protests in Dhaka which threatened to bring down the Government of President Ershad, the two women who lead the main Bangladeshi opposition parties have drifted apart.

The feuding between the two, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, head of the Awami League, and Begum Khaleda Zia, chairwoman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, has been exacerbated by their driving ambition and mutual distrust. This has put the liaison committee appointed to help unite the opposition under severe strain.

The split surfaced last week as Sheikh Hasina, President Ershad's most serious rival, accused Begum Zia of having clandestine links with the Army.

"The Awami League will go alone instead of keeping ties with those who run with the hare and hunt with the hounds," Sheikh Hasina said at a public meeting in an obvious reference to her erstwhile ally, Begum Zia.

The latter is the widow of an army general who ruled the country for almost six years before being killed in an abortive coup.

Sheikha Hasina, aged 41, is the daughter and political heir of the country's founder president, Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rahman. Her father was killed in a midnight massacre by dissident army officers on 15 August, 1975.

Sheikha Hasina blames Begum Zia's husband, General Zia-ur-Rahman, for allowing the self-confessed killers to go unpunished.

Begum Zia, on the other hand, holds Sheikh Hasina responsible for having helped to encourage the coup six years ago which dislodged her

party from power. "The feud between the two women is deep-rooted and personal ambitions have widened the rift," a political observer said.

The main casualty of the opposition split has been the campaign to topple President Ershad. Crowds at opposition rallies have been thinning recently, and the start of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, has reduced the likelihood of further street

Dhaka (Reuters) — A further 100 kidnaped Bangladeshis, mostly women and children, have been rescued near the south-western border with India, police said yesterday. Last week border guards said 267 hostages, destined for sale abroad as prostitutes or for organ transplants, had been saved in the last six months. The latest rescue, on Wednesday, happened when police stopped a crowded bus.

protests. "The opposition is in a quandary about what course to follow next, with their unity disintegrating and the Government and the Army re-establishing control," a Western diplomat said.

The confusion in the opposition ranks has been so great that the eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina has been meeting for the past three days in an effort to map out a strategy for a planned general strike on Monday.

The strike will be a crucial test of the opposition's ability to patch up its quarrels and relaunch its campaign to oust the President.

Sheikha Hasina and Begum Zia have met only three times since they started their mass campaign for greater democracy last November.

However, they have united once again in calling for the new strike, which is aimed at

stalling the opening of the new parliament. The election on March 3 was boycotted by the opposition, giving the ruling Jatiyo (National) Party a huge majority.

Leading members of the Awami League now believe that it was wrong to boycott the election. They blame the decision on Begum Zia, saying she led the opposition into staying out of the poll because her party was not prepared to field candidates in all constituencies.

Political observers suggest that the rift between the two principal opposition figures is the result of pressures building up within their parties. Sheikh Hasina returned from six years of self-imposed exile in 1981 to take charge of the Awami League by virtue of her charismatic father's memory. She is now being challenged by the party's old guard, who accuse her of being authoritarian.

"All this mud-slinging has hurt the opposition's fight for democracy clearly," said Mr Abbas Ali Khan, leader of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami Party, whose members on Wednesday openly clashed with the League's supporters in Chittagong.

But a fragmented opposition has not relieved President Ershad of all his problems. He is in trouble over his controversial plans to make Islam the Bangladesh state religion.

The Army and the fundamentalists have supported the Islamization programme, but intellectuals and the secular opposition are vehemently against it.

In addition, he has had to contend with the growing impoverishment of Bangladesh, where 85 per cent of the country's 103 million people are living at subsistence level.

India mounts verbal attack on Zia over Sikh terror link

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A war of words against Pakistan escalated this week as Indian leaders bombarded their neighbours with a series of ministerial statements, at least one of which accused President Zia of Pakistan of lying about assistance being given to Sikh terrorists.

Mr Bata Singh, the Minister of Home Affairs, told Parliament that the assertion by President Zia that Pakistan was not aiding the terrorists was "a tissue of lies". He said that he had "incontrovertible proof" that it was doing so.

At the same time Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, talking to the commanders of India's million-strong Army, declared that Pakistan had "thwarted every suggestion of ours" to normalize relations between the two countries during the eight meetings he has had with

General Zia and three with the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Junejo.

Mr Gandhi also said that Pakistan was continuing to assist Punjab terrorism.

A third minister, Mr K. Narwar Singh, the Minister of State for External Affairs, commented in Parliament on the sustained support that Punjab terrorists were receiving in Pakistan, adding that India knew "the location of their training camps and the names of the persons training the extremists". A former Foreign Minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat, also speaking in Parliament, accused Pakistan of carrying on an "undeclared war in Punjab".

Mr Bata Singh said that two Pakistani Rangers had been killed with two terrorists on Tuesday morning. He suggested that the Rang-

ers had been providing cover for the terrorists while they slipped into India, adding that other terrorists had cut back across the line, leaving behind their Chinese-made AK 47 assault rifles, and 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

The Ministry of Home Affairs told Parliament on Wednesday that 335 weapons, including revolvers, pistols, rifles and rocket launchers, had been seized in Punjab during the first three months of the year, and Mr K.P.S. Gill, the new chief of police in Punjab, said another 42 AK 47s have been captured in the past three weeks.

A cache of 16 Soviet-made anti-tank missiles, probably originally captured by the Mujahidin in Afghanistan, were also unearthed on Wednesday at a farmhouse in Gurdaspur district.

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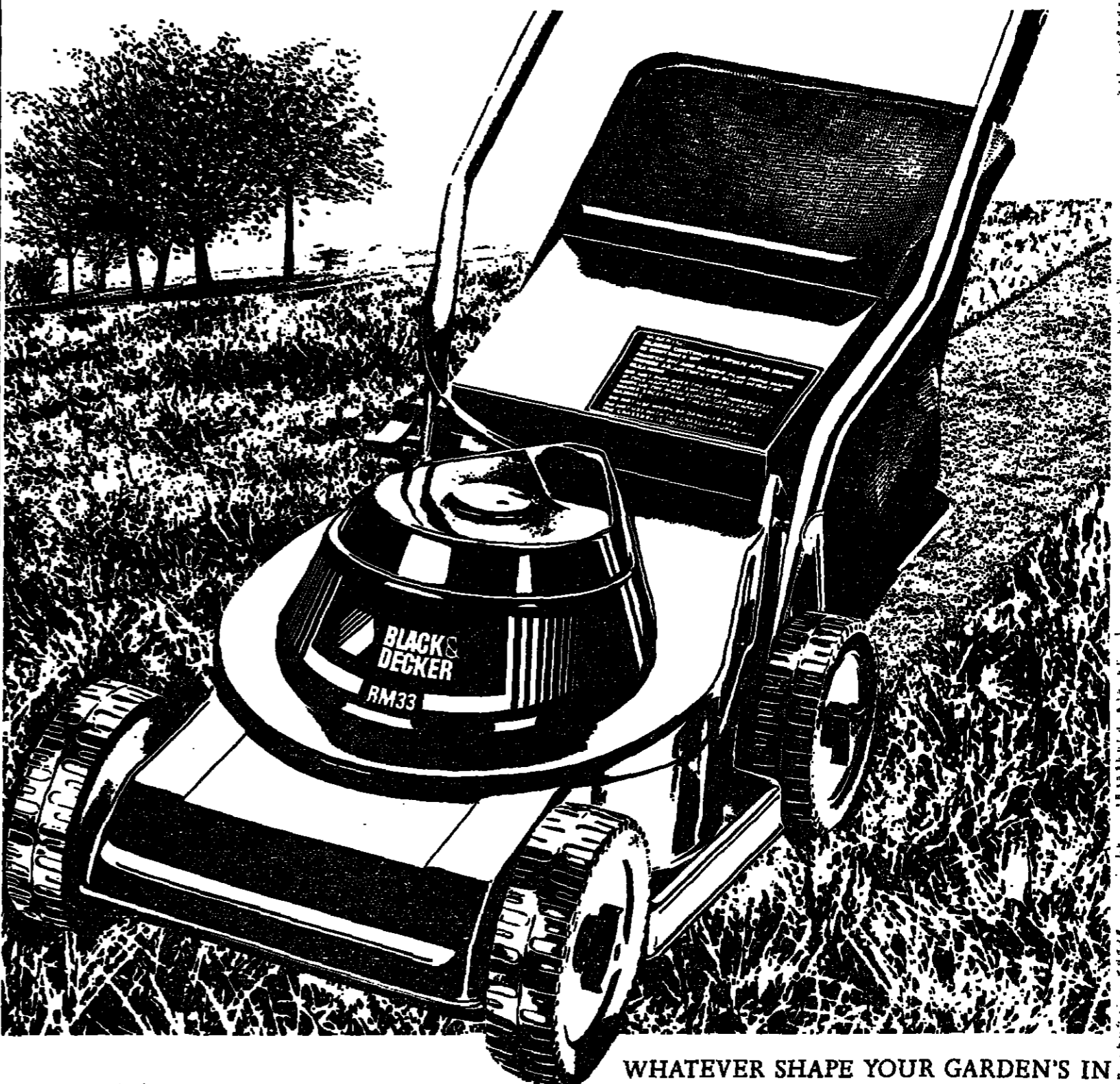
The RM33 rotary lawnmower.

At 3000 rpm, its 13-inch hardened steel blade cuts even long grass cleanly. Its inset wheels get power right to the lawn edge. Each wheel has individual height control - for the trickiest banks and slopes - and a real professional finish.

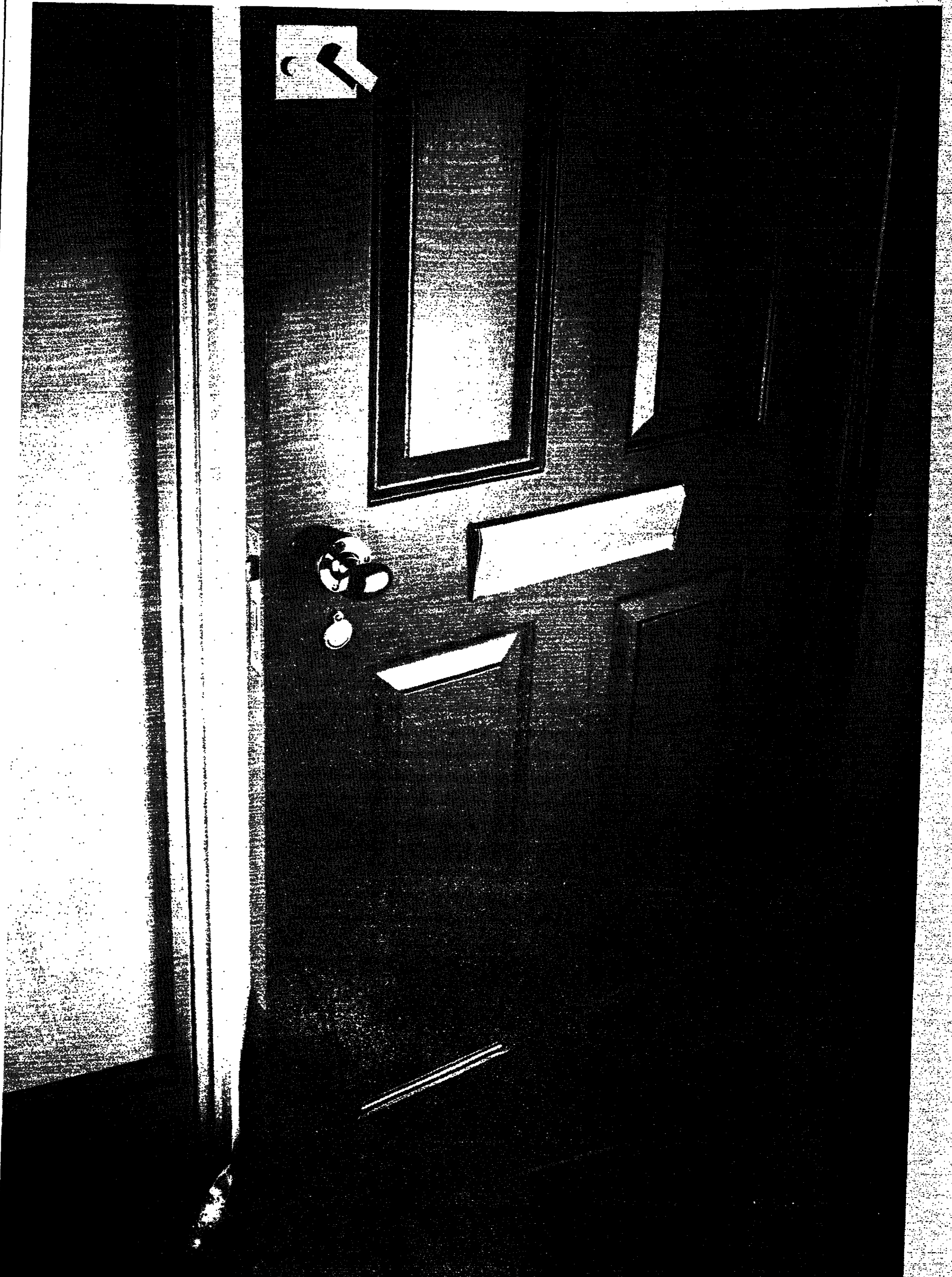
Being induction, its motor is maintenance free. Its body is virtually indestructible glass-filled

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The grassbag is extra lightweight as well as extra large. The RM33 comes with 82 feet of cable. It also comes with the guarantee and experience of the people who put more power into shaping gardens than anyone else. Plus a National Network of Service Stations, should you ever need them.



WHATEVER SHAPE YOUR GARDEN'S IN



"SOMEONE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT LIFE INSURANCE SALESMEN."

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Isn't it funny how they don't knock on the door and say: "Hello, I'm a life insurance salesman, would you like a policy?"

Instead, you get the old world charm. The roundabout introduction.

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(Surely they can't be ashamed.

Is he? Apparently so.

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Rather than ending up buying from a company salesman purely for convenience's sake.



THEY JUST DID.

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Now you can. There's a new law (pictured here in all its glory) which changes the way you buy life insurance, pensions and unit trusts.

This is the gist of it:

From April 29th 1988 you can buy these things from two kinds of people: An Independent Financial Adviser. Or a company salesman.

It all depends whether you want unbiased advice. Or a sales pitch.

Backbench move to reduce effect of business rate

A Conservative backbench move to mitigate the impact of the uniform business rate on small businesses was made when MPs began the fourth day of the report stage of the Local Government Finance Bill.

Mr Robert Hicks (South East Cornwall, C) moved an amendment to abate by half increases in the uniform business rate of £1,000 a year or less. He said that the Government's proposed uniform business rate had had a very mixed reception. There were few who were not worried by the impact it could have on the level of economic activity in small businesses.

Cornwall was not a major industrial county but it was dependent on a wide economic diversity. The LGR would mean an immediate increase in rates of 10 to 12 per cent. That would be compounded by a rate revaluation, the first since 1973.

The combination would cause serious disruption, and damage individual business enterprises. "It is the overall effect that worries me."

He therefore proposed that during the transitional period the maximum increase in any rate bill should be restricted to 10 per cent in real terms, the cost of the transition should be met by the Exchequer, the transitional period should be extended beyond 1990; the Government's intentions on transition should be announced before the legislation was implemented.

If, as expected, local authorities increased their expenditure by more than the rate of inflation over the next three years, the unified business rate would be that much higher.

POLL TAX BILL

Many MPs were deeply conscious of the effect that the projected figures would have on business activity. That was why the suggestion had been put forward as a solution that there should be an abatement of half on the first £1,000.

"This would most certainly help to reduce the incidence of rates on the smaller business unit. Other advantages of this particular scheme are that it has no additional administrative costs. There are no thresholds involved. It could be self-financing."

In view of the great emphasis ministers had placed on the contribution that the smaller business unit had made to the revival in recent years, they should acknowledge the very real fears about the problems that would result from the Bill's changes.

"Smaller business units, the 'village shops scenario', performed an important social function."

"Many of them are finding it economically difficult to survive and it could well be that any significant increase in the level of their rating burden could place their very economic viability in question."

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said that Labour did not accept the principle of a national business tax and he could not see why so many Conservative MPs did.

How could a national business tax, not in the control of the Secretary of State for Environment but in the control of the Chancellor, improve local accountability?

It totally divorced local authorities from the tax and broke the relationship that the Government had rightly sought to build up between local authority decision-making, their budgets and the local business community.

That had been an important and welcome development, which this Bill destroyed. Opposition amendments were intended to provide for regulations to enable a discount of up to 100 per cent of the tax to be available for small businesses.

Large businesses and the Government ought to be making a contribution to the scheme just as the better off in society should be funding a 100 per cent discount scheme for people on low incomes.

The Opposition had responded to discussions going on with organizations representing small businesses by tabling a new clause and amendments.

These would expand the period of phasing-in of the proposals by up to 10 years and they also drew attention to the fact that Government proposals would slow the rate of benefit in the North to the advantage of businesses in the South.

The Government had been arguing that its proposals would bring significant benefits to the North. Now its second thoughts meant these significant benefits were being eroded.

Mr Ridley had promised in committee to put forward an amendment to cover a point made by Sir Brandon Rhys Williams. Where was it? He was surprised not to see it.

Mr Ridley intervened to say that the Government "almost certainly" intended to put the amendment forward in the Lords.



Mr Tony Banks (right) with Mr Nicholas Ridley and Mrs Thatcher as they set to work tidying St James's Park

Collecting litter with elegance

The litter problem was disgusting, but the solution lay in persuasion rather than in enforcement, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, House of Commons, said during Commons questions. In 1986, the latest year for which figures were available, about 1,400 people had been found guilty under the Litter Act.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) said that that figure made a mockery of the Act in view of the appalling amount of litter. There were at least 90,000 police constables, so was it too much to ask each officer to obtain one prosecution against litter loots each year?

Mr Hogg said that he was sympathetic to the point made. He did not think that the criminal law could ever be the primary instrument for resolving the problem.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said that many people believed that the UK was now the litter gutter of the world. Mr Hogg agreed that there was far too much litter around and that it was indeed disgusting. It was for that reason that the Prime Minister had given her personal support to the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. Essentially the solution to the problem lay in persuading people of their personal and social responsibilities not to create litter.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) is the minister aware that last month litter was deliberately strewn around St James's Park, only then to be collected by a lady of pension-

able years and stuffed into a black plastic bag carried by a strange old cover covered in fog ash and mustering obscenities under his breath? (laughter)

Is the minister able to cast any light on this rather bizarre incident and would he tell us whether the two litter loots concerned have been prosecuted? (laughter)

Mr Hogg: My recollection is that the litter was picked up with very considerable elegance (laughter).

Lords want secrets law reformed

The following report of the second reading debate in the Lords on the Protection of Information (No 2) Bill, introduced by Lord Belhelt, appeared in later editions yesterday.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, said that the catch-section 2 of the Official Secrets Act was so widely drawn as to undermine the administration of justice and the rule of law.

In his maiden speech in the Lords, he supported other peers in arguing for reform of section 2 during the debate.

Lord Donaldson said he hoped that the Bill would help to speed the Government's intentions of bringing forward an acceptable alternative.

The Bill is virtually identical to the measure introduced by Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills, C) in the Commons, which was rejected

at second reading. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, has said that a White Paper on reforming section 2 would be published in June.

When asked by Lord Mishcon about rumours that he would not be pressing the Bill, Lord Belhelt (C) said that he thought it "extremely unlikely" that time would be found to proceed to a committee stage.

Opening the debate, he said the present section 2 was a sledgehammer, a nuclear deterrent, so unwieldy and full of political fallout that it no longer commanded credibility because of the unwillingness of juries to convict.

The Bill was a step towards a more democratic form of government. It removed the catch-all section 2 and cut out the excuse, sometimes used by those who wished to conceal information from the public.

The Bill was read a second time.

Kinnock speaks for constituent Thatcher advises borrowing

An unnamed widow, aged 73, a constituent of Mr Kinnock, who has been trying for 20 months to sell her house was advised by the Prime Minister to raise a bank loan against that asset. Labour MPs protested vigorously and hissed when Mrs Thatcher made the point during question time.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: A 73-year-old widow in my constituency has lost all her housing benefit because she owns a house she has been trying to sell for 20 months. Out of £41.67 a week she has to find £32.74 rent for her flat. Will the Prime Minister tell me and my constituent how she can live on less than £10 a week?

Mrs Thatcher: There a number of cases where there is a lapse of time between when a house is put on the market and they can sell it. There used to be provision to cover that gap. It was unfortunately not properly used and therefore the rules



Mr Kinnock: She does not live in the real world

DHSS. They ruled that she was entitled to the £41.67 a week.

Mrs Thatcher: The reason I said "if any difficulty" is perfectly plain. If a person has a considerable asset like a house, it should not be difficult to raise a modest loan on a valuation of that house.

Mr Kinnock: She does not live in the real world. The house cannot be sold had not been sold for 20 months. Will the Prime Minister recommend which building society or source of credit there would be to enable a constituent to raise an additional mortgage of £73,000?

Mrs Thatcher: A loan on the security of an asset is a perfectly well understood transaction usually provided for by the banks of this country.

Later, during business questions, Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, announced that there would be an Opposition debate on Wednesday entitled: "The hardship caused by the housing benefit changes".

Review for POW murder papers

All information at the Ministry of Defence relevant to the murder of British prisoners at Wormhoudt, northern France, in 1940, is being rigorously re-examined to see whether it could provide the basis for legal action against Herr Wilhelm Mohrke, a former Nazi officer.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab) asked whether the Government's new policy on official secrets would lead to the re-opening of files on the massacre and bring to account Mr Mohrke, a former Nazi officer.

More than 80 British Servicemen had been massacred in 1940, most of them members of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. A survivor, Mr Reg West, aged 81, a former officer of the regiment, was still seeking justice for his fallen comrades. "We owe it to them."

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said that he had been

in touch with the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr George Younger), who had asked him to make clear that all material relevant to the massacre in the custody of the ministry was being rigorously re-examined to see if it could provide the basis for the sort of action for which Mr Rooker was pressing.

The courts in this country had no jurisdiction in this case. If information did come to light it would be a matter for the Foreign Secretary and Mr Younger to consider.

Later, during business questions, Mr Grenville Janner (Leicester West, Lab) asked for a debate on the Government's "unworthy" policy of keeping secret many documents more than 40 years old concerning the deaths of British Servicemen and prisoners of war.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, said that he could not promise a debate on that subject.

Kuwaitis praised

It was excellent that the 17 prisoners were still in jail in Kuwait despite the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, Mrs Thatcher said during questions.

She agreed with Mr Thomas Sackville (Bolton West, C), who asked her to commend the Kuwaiti Government and to agree that those governments that failed to learn the lesson that terrorism must be resisted exposed their own citizens and everyone else to risk.

The Prime Minister said that she had urged the Kuwaitis not to give in. The Foreign Secretary would raise the implications of hijacks in the EC Council of Ministers next week.

Commons bans Mace dispute MP for 20 days

to suspend Mr Eric Firth (Mid-Worcestershire, C) to suspend him for 60 days and not to let him return until he had apologized both fell through lack of time.

Moving the motion, Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, said that it had been tabled with the agreement of the official Opposition.

The agreement to the motion from both sides was "a clear sign that the House generally accepts the importance of upholding the authority of the Chair".

On Monday night Mr Brown had picked up the mace. "He then released it and as it hit the ground it sustained a certain amount of damage."

Arrangements had been made yesterday for Mr Brown to make a personal statement about his conduct, but, despite being given ample time by the Speaker to make a statement and to apologize, he had failed to do so in a way that satisfied the House and had to be asked to withdraw from the chamber.

"His conduct showed a deep disrespect for the dignity and position of the Speaker and the authority he exercises on behalf of the House itself."

Nobody who heard Mr Brown yesterday could believe that he regretted his action. "Indeed, I understand that he has since said as much to the press."

A 20-day suspension was a penalty which would automatically follow on the second occasion in a single session that the same MP had been named. Not many MPs would disagree that Mr Brown's aggravation of his original misconduct by his persistent refusal to give a satisfactory apology justified a penalty more severe than that which Mr Brown would have received yesterday had he been named.

"Nor do I think that any MP would feel it right for the public purse to bear the cost of putting right the damage to the Mace as a result of his conduct."

Mr Cryer's amendment to financial liability for the damage to the Mace could conceivably have been acceptable had Mr Brown shown genuine regret.

Mr Firth's amendment would take a tougher line. "But I do not think it would be right to bring forward new disciplinary measures in one particular case without a more general consideration of the House's powers in this respect."

He hoped to table the motion next week to set up the Procedure Committee. It may be that the committee would wish to carry out a review of the House's disciplinary procedures and, if so, MPs would wish to take their comments into account before making any changes.

Mr Brown said that perhaps there had been a misunderstanding yesterday about what was meant by a personal statement.

Any damage to the Mace would be paid for by himself and "my friends back home" by members of the engineering union who are quite happy to do what they can to make everything better.

"They will certainly look at the Mace simply because it symbolizes so much to so many individuals on either side of the House."

"But you still know my strength of feeling, bearing in mind what has been happening to working class people."

Scandinavian silver is a world beater

Bukowski, the Stockholm auctioneer, pushed Scandinavian silver into the big time yesterday, achieving a world record of £227,300 (double estimate) for a rococo-style tureen, its handles and legs in the shape of leaves. Similar to one at the Royal Castle in Stockholm, it bears the makers mark of Kilian Kelson of Stockholm, 1756.

Having recently embraced Scandinavian paintings, lifting their prices into line with those achieved by Old Masters, the art market is clearly doing the same for silver. The record for an English piece is £700,000.

cupboards by Iweresson fetched £48,000 against an estimate of £16,400, and a set of four tea tables with porcelain trays by Marieberg sold for £36,000 (estimate £11,000).

Sotheby's success rate for its European works of art sale was far better than Christie's on Wednesday, at 84 per cent sold to Christie's 56 per cent.

A monumental North Spanish Renaissance wood altarpiece fetched top price of £462,000 (estimate £150,000 to £250,000), going to a private buyer. It was carved by the workshop of Guiot, Juan and

Mateo Beaugrant, a family of Flemish origin which worked in the Basque regions during the sixteenth century. Centred on the Crucifixion, with the Virgin, St John and the Magdalene grasping the foot of the Cross, it includes a carved relief of Jerusalem.

Second highest lot was a Florentine terracotta group of a battle scene, attributed to the fifteenth-century artist Giovanni Francesco Rustici, which sold for three times its estimate at £275,000.

Many nineteenth century icons sold well over estimate

at Christie's and the sale totalled £156,255, with 80 per cent sold.

Also at Christie's, this time South Kensington, an album of photographs taken by the Rev George Wilson Bridges (1788 to 1863), Roger Fenton and others, and including views of Bethlehem, the Nile and Malta, sold within estimate for £15,400 to an American.

Although the actor Danny La Rue's Bechstein grand piano has been played by Noel Coward and Liberace, it sold modestly within estimate at Phillips yesterday for £2,640.

Chernobyl charges rejected

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food yesterday rejected Labour Party claims that it had failed to take prompt action to minimize any risk to public health in the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster two years ago.

On Wednesday, Dr David Clark, Labour's spokesman on agriculture and rural affairs, accused the Prime Minister of "gross irresponsibility" in twice refusing his call for a public inquiry.

The ministry yesterday rejected Dr Clark's suggestion that seriously contaminated lambs from Cumbria and north Wales might have been sold at market.

"We are confident that no one at any time ate lamb with a radioactive level of more than 1,000 becquerels", the ministry said.

Accusations of excessive government secrecy were described as extraordinary. "There was not a single monitoring statistic which had not been put into the public domain."

Weekend prices Cost cutting boost for low-salt bacon rasher

Bacon lovers who watch their salt intake generally look out for tender and sweeter varieties, which tend to have less salt, and this week those are down by 20p a lb.

Home-produced lamb has gone up. Expect to pay between £2.65 and £3.20 a lb for a whole leg and £1.40 to £2.20 for a whole shoulder. Beef roasting joints are also up. Topside is about £2.32 a lb, boneless sirloin £3.05 and rib joints £1.61.

Large cod at an average £1.92, codling £1.82, coley £1.12, mackerel 71p and lemon sole £2.50, are cheaper than last week. Brill is £3.40 a lb, turbot £4.40, and Dover sole about £4.90.

Spain and Carmel strawberries are 45p to 75p a 1/2lb. Strawberries from South Africa and Australia are £1.50 to £1.80 a lb. Cape Beurre Bosc peaches from Africa 35p to 45p a lb; Ribbles grapes from Chile are 70p to 90p a lb. Oranges are 6p to 25p each, bananas 35p to 50p a lb.

Best vegetable buy is cauliflower, 30p to 60p each; Italian and Spanish calabrese broccoli, 80p to £1.15 a lb; courgettes 60p to 80p; mushrooms 40p to 75p a 1/2lb; potatoes 11p to 14p a lb.

Hot-house tomatoes are 80p to £1 a lb; Chinese leaves 80p to £1.20; beetroot 30p to 40p a lb; round lettuce 20p to 30p; cucumbers 30p to 60p.

Supermarket offers include: Asda, fresh and frozen mince beef 99p a lb, braising steak £1.49, fresh basted chickens 71p, Tesco, fresh leg of lamb £1.99 a lb, fresh boneless pork chops £1.49, whole stuffed chickens 89p; Sainsbury, pork loin chops £1.18 a lb, rumpsteak £2.58; frozen chicken 42p; Safeway, sirloin £2.99 a lb, whole shoulder of New Zealand lamb 68p; Presto, rumpsteak £2.49 a lb, porterhouse/sirloin £2.99, whole shoulder of New Zealand lamb 68p; Dewhurst, whole leg of pork 89p a lb, pork packs 69p, fresh chicken portions 79p a lb; Bejam, frozen chicken 58p a lb; Bowyer's thick pork sausages 240s for £2.19.

Subsidy fears over luxury cruise liner project

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Plans to build the world's biggest cruise liner in Northern Ireland have met with a cool response because of fears it might need a multi-million pound subsidy.

Mr Ravi Tikoo, an Indian entrepreneur, wants to construct the £63 million ship at the state-owned Harland and Wolff yard in east Belfast. The yard has worked for 3,800 employees only until 1990.

There is a suspicion among govern-

ment ministers and officials that big publicity surrounding the announcement that Harland and Wolff has exchanged an initial agreement was designed to press the Government into a decision about a subsidy.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was cautious and appeared less than enthusiastic when he welcomed the plan as "imaginative". In spite of the publicity, the Northern Ireland Office has not had detailed discussions with the company.

Without subsidy it is doubtful

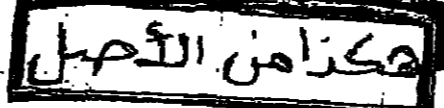
whether the project, codenamed Ultimate Dream, would get under way. No formal costings have been received from the shipyard, nor any indication of the level of subsidy required. It is being emphasized that Mr King must judge what is in the best interests of the whole province and not just of Harland and Wolff.

One Whitehall source said people were asking who was to pay for the ship and if giving a subsidy was the best use of large sums of money. A former Conservative Cabinet minister said: "Let us hope it is not another De

Lorean or Lear Fan - both projects which cost the taxpayer millions."

The announcement of the project comes at a time when the Government is taking a far tougher approach towards mounting losses at Harland and Wolff, amid projections that the taxpayer will have to provide annual subsidies of up to £60 million for several years.

With little imminent sign of the yard making money, ministers and officials in the province are known to have been closely examining its performance and future potential.



Tournament of the Mind



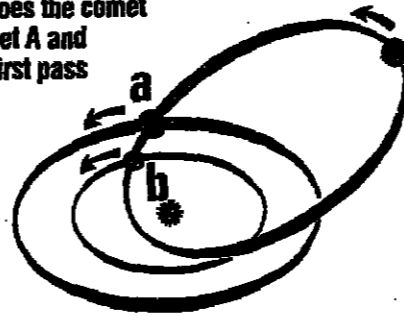
Final round of the schools' tournament — with an IBM personal computer to be won

The long trail to find the winners of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind, which attracted more than 30,000 entries, comes closer to the finish today with the last questions to be faced by the 11 teams in the schools' final.

With a day to go, many entries had already been received yesterday. Harold Gale, executive director of British Mensa, who set the questions throughout the contest, said: "First, we were amazed and pleased at the huge interest generated by the competition.

The standard has been high throughout but the finalists have been absolutely brilliant. Questions which we thought would prove impossible to answer have caused little or no difficulty. Some people have asked for them to be made even more difficult."

In the diagram, a comet is 0° through its orbit. It passes planet A at a point when this planet is at 0° and the comet is ¼ way through its orbit. They next pass each other when the comet and planet A are ¼ through each of their orbits. The comet passes planet B when this planet is at 0° and the comet has completed ¾ of its orbit. They next pass each other when the comet and planet B are ¼ through their respective orbits. Planet A orbits the sun every 33 years, planet B orbits the sun every 22 years and the comet arrives every 48 years. In years, when does the comet first pass planet A and when does it first pass planet B?



Can you think of two words of the same six letters which will replace the stars in this sentence. The orange ***** on the flag signified a state run by God's *****

Two oranges, one apple and one date cost £2.71. Two pears, one orange and one date cost £2.61. If you bought four fruits, each one different, the cost would be £2.57, while two apples, one orange and one pear would cost £2.54. How much would two oranges and two dates cost?

Work out the reasoning behind this series of letters and then tell us which letter should come next. A S P S A S T S G I C R ?

- 1. Which Chinese philosopher criticized Confucius for stressing ritual rather than virtue and proposed the principle of universal love?
2. Which Austrian dramatist wrote A Dream is Life?
3. Which snake preys chiefly on other snakes and is usually patterned with blue and white or black and yellow/tan bands?
4. Who deciphered Crete's Linear-B?
5. Which disease, caused by eating fish contaminated with dimethyl mercury, killed 43 people in a Japanese town between 1953 and 1956?

Bright sparks spurned

As Geneva hosts a showcase for the world's inventors, Sally Brompton looks at the way Britain treats its home-grown talent

Peter Mallett's good idea is the stuff of which fortunes are made. His non-spill urinal has been highly acclaimed by nurses whose patients have tried it. The problem is that Mallett, 36, an architectural designer from Launceston in Cornwall, has neither the money nor the expertise to manufacture and market his invention.

It is hardly surprising that, after more than two years of rejection, Mallett confesses to having become "a little bit jaundiced and cynical about the whole business". Even so, he has not given up hope. "I know it's a good idea, and the people who have used it think it's a good idea. But I am not prepared to risk my house in order to set up my own production company. Being a designer, I'm not interested in the commercial side of things and I'm not good at dealing with the headaches involved."

Mallett's predicament is typical of those encountered by thousands of inventors, amateur and professional, many of whom are the unsung heroes and heroines of British technology. And this despite industry's growing awareness of their potential: one organizer of business and industrial exhibitions now incorporates regular inventors' competitions at its events, such as that at Cardiff next month and others at Glasgow and Bournemouth in the autumn. The Scottish competition has already received more than 200 applications from inventors anxious to air their ideas before a business audience.

Sadly, few of this country's small-time inventors will be in Geneva this week for the important International Exhibition of Inventions and New Techniques. Most of them cannot afford to attend this annual showcase which features inventions from all over the world and attracts 100,000 visitors.

Frank West, chairman of the National Association for Inventors & Innovation, understands the problems better than most. "An inventor should be inventing," says West, a life-long inventor himself of such industrial classics as the reciprocating drive. "He shouldn't be forced into a position where he has got to go out and market his product. We've been forced to turn ourselves into businessmen."

With unworried inventors in mind, West co-founded the association to help them get their products



Going begging: nurses approve of Peter Mallett's non-spill urinal, an advance on the old design (left), but a two-year attempt to interest firms failed

marketed and to create new ideas for manufacturers. "A true inventor is born, not bred," he says. "We have an ability to solve problems. We seem more open-minded than other people. We look at everything from so many different angles."

Unhappily, these creative geniuses are, more often than not, ignorant of the practical and legal intricacies of producing a marketable item, even to the extent of failing to do initial research to find if their idea is commercially viable or whether someone else has already taken out a patent.

"Inventors aren't very good at presenting their products," says Richard Paine, chairman of Inventalink, the London-based invention consultants. "They tend to be over-emotional about them. When we present an idea to a manufacturer we do so very simply, in one paragraph and in words of one syllable. The inventor will probably send them eight pages of indecipherable and complicated stuff, and people get bored reading it."

The former head of an advertising agency, Paine co-founded Inventalink five years ago with a patent lawyer, an inventor and a market researcher. He estimates that of 3,000 inventions they see each year they take on no more than 150, of which 10 per cent will succeed — "a very high hit rate".

A recent "winner" was the inventor of an insulated fibre-glass roofing system that is expected to produce a turnover of between £5 million and £10 million in the next three to four years, providing the inventor, it is hoped, with hundreds

of thousands of pounds in royalties. So, in the week that the Government's advertising machine is urging us to become good Europeans and extolling the virtues of 1992 and a single European market, does the small inventor feel encouraged? Frank West is ambivalent. "There is no doubt that it will increase outlets and possibilities for inventors, but what we don't want to do is to open a lot of doors so that the manufacturers and investors come from overseas, because then the profits will go overseas. Ideally, we want to

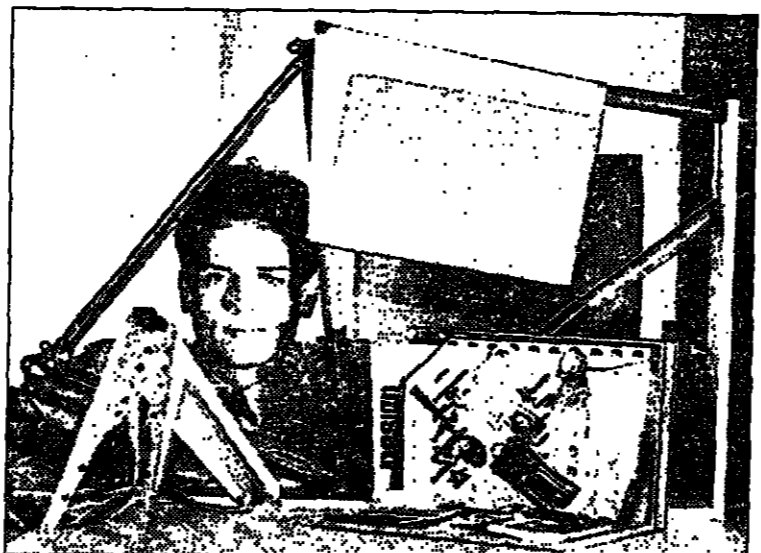
get the products on the market in Britain, then sell them abroad."

The naive inventor is not always to blame for his lack of success. More often than not, manufacturers refuse even to consider a marketable idea from a private inventor. According to Ivor Harrison, a West Country chartered patent agent, it is "partly a matter of corporate pride. If a company has a large, sophisticated research and development department it likes to think it knows better than someone who just comes along knocking on the door."

Patenting is frequently another stumbling block. The Patent Office strongly recommends that inventors seek the services of one of the country's 1,200 patent agents.

To the men with the original inspiration, it can all add up to a frustrating and, often, heartbreaking business. "It does sometimes cause terrible marital problems," West says. "We have people on the breadline who consider that the most important thing in their life is to get their idea going."

INVENTORY: THE PROGRESS OF THREE IDEAS



BIKE BIX

Invention: Filofax-style, injection-moulded plastic briefcase designed to fit on bicycle (left)

Advantages: smart, fashionable, needs no fittings

Stage: prototype

Inventor: Alan Somerfield, 25, industrial design engineer from west London

"I created it with someone like me in mind who lives in London and travels to business meetings by bicycle. The only problem is that it needs to be produced in large quantities to make it cost-effective so I'm trying to take it into the American market"

SIDEWORKER

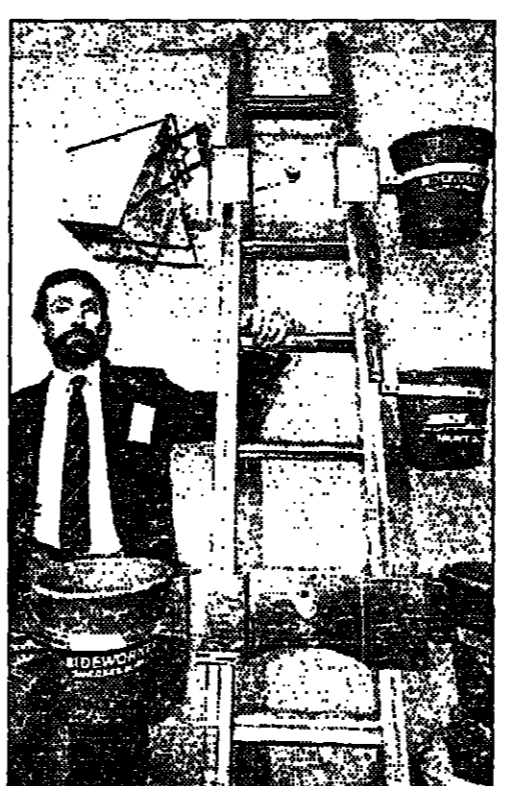
Invention: ladder attachment for bucket, toolbox or paint container (right)

Advantages: light, stable, safe and saves time wasted going up and down ladders

Stage: in production

Inventor: Donald Flayner, 52, builder from Torpoint, Cornwall

"It was invented for a very difficult job but proved so useful that I thought I would try to get it produced commercially. Now it's selling in 20 major stores in Devon and Cornwall and about 90 per cent of my time is spent marketing it"



TRENPEN

Invention: steel-framed interconnecting lambing pens (above)

Advantages: lightweight, cheap to produce, easy to erect and move around, safe and hygienic for lambs and ewes

Stage: prototype

Inventors: Robert and Anne Strongman, both 34, sheep-farmers from Truro, Cornwall

"We've been using these pens for four years," Anne Strongman says, "and a lot of the farmers around us have said we should market them. But while we know about sheep we don't know about marketing"

Just the ticket for hospitals?

The plans for a health service lottery announced yesterday have a long foreign pedigree, Alan Franks reports

In a money matters, as the world knows, when America sneezes Great Britain catches cold. Those who oppose the idea of a national lottery over here to help finance the hospital service — and there are many — can claim ample evidence of contagion from the US.

However, there are undoubtedly financial advantages. At present 22 states are using lotteries to generate funds for public services such as health and education. Two years ago the total raised annually was \$5 billion, and this is expected to double before the decade is out. In practical terms the states operating the system are raising from 2 to 8 per cent of their entire revenue needs.

There is nothing new in the phenomenon. Such gambling was commonplace in the US during the last century, brought to a temporary end in 1890 by federal statute. The practice resurfaced in New Hampshire in 1963, the declared aim of John King, the state governor, being to relieve his people from the burdens of taxation, and has not looked back. Inevitably the state which threw itself most flamboyantly into the gambling business was California, in October 1985, with a \$30 million advertising campaign and an explosion of fireworks, laser shows and rallies.

But even in this most innovative of states there has been emphatic opposition from political heavyweights, churches, synagogues and law enforcement agencies. While proponents emphasized the elements of fun and social responsibility, critics argued that in other states, when the lottery windfall arrived and was channelled into education the school funds were simply reduced accordingly.

The Republican chairman of the Senate Education Committee in New York said in 1985 of his own state's operations: "My inclination is to say it is a fraud, and the public is not wrong if it is disillusioned."

In France, national lotteries are raising almost £2 million a year, of which just over 50 per cent is returned in prize money. But it is the citizens of Spain who are spending their money on games of chance at a rate second only to the Americans.

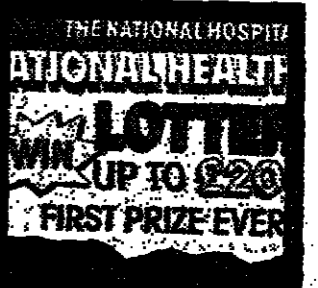
They have a history of devotion to lotteries which dates right back to 1812, soon

after the formation of Spain's first government. The main date in the national lottery calendar falls on December 23, when the results of El Gordo (the fat one) are announced. After the ceremony, the equivalent of £80 million is distributed to ticket holders.

Since the treasury takes about 30 per cent of the money put into the lotteries, the socialist government is understandably keen to hold on to its monopoly. However, when the regional government of Catalonia last year launched two lotteries on its own initiative, there was nothing that Madrid could do to stop it, and a huge chunk of the revenue has been set aside to help fund the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Even Turkey now has a state lottery which last year yielded a record top prize of two billion lira. (Alas, no one stepped forward to receive the fortune, through an administrative error, the winning number had not been sold.)

In the opinion of Simon Burns, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, who introduced a



How British tickets will look

10-minute rule Bill on a national lottery to the Commons in February, it is a shame that Britain should fall behind the rest of the world in the lottery stakes. He points out that a 1978 survey by the Royal Commission on Gambling showed that 83 per cent of respondents did not consider that a lottery would encourage other forms of gambling.

The present impasse derives from the fact that while lotteries cannot hope to attract entrants without the lure of large cash rewards, the Lotteries and Amusements Act of 1976 has set a maximum of £6,000 on individual prizes. Yesterday Stephen Pike, head of the lotteries section of the Gaming Board, said that the new proposals announced by the National Hospital Trust had not been registered with the board.

Advertisement for 'Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator' with a prize of 'At least £8,000 to be won'. It also features a 'Heating up for the Olympics' promotion for cabbage steamed in peppers.

Advertisement for 'CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1546' with a grid and a list of clues. The clues include: 1 Mould (6), 4 Torment (6), 7 Money amounts (4), 8 Gabarone state (8), 9 Pipit (7), 11 Bloodsucker (5), 12 Brain x-ray (13), 15 Poems series (5), 16 Round edge (7), 20 Polluted precipitation (4,4), 21 Open pie (4), 22 Cricket team (6), 23 Pace measurer (6). Down clues include: 1 French bagpipe (7), 2 Boundary (5), 3 "Obnoxious" composer (5), 4 Loathe (4), 5 Non-professional (7), 6 Hide away (5), 10 Abundant (5), 11 Ridiculous (5), 13 Coca drug (7), 14 Dismal-matched musician (7), 15 Desire intensely (5), 17 Parents' sisters (5), 18 Unintelligent (5), 19 Young deer (4).

Advertisement for 'SATURDAY' featuring 'Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator' and 'Heating up for the Olympics'.

مكازم الأصيل



A British destroyer, 100 miles off the Norwegian coast, comes under missile attack!

As MEO², your brief is damage control. The Captain now looks to you to keep the ship operational.

Under your command, in the S.C.C.³, you have eight specialist officers and men. Posted fore and aft, linked to you direct, are the damage control parties.

You will have to know how to deal with fire, smoke and flood. (A 6" hole just below the water-line will flood a weapons magazine⁴ in less than 10 mins.)

You will have to know how to restore stability should the ship (a 4,000-ton warship, remember) begin to list.

You will have to know how to maintain manoeuvrability if part of the propulsion system fails.

You will have to know how to restore power to damaged weapons systems. You will have to decide on your priorities and review them constantly.

It's on you, and those men serving under you, that the ability of the ship to float, move and fight depends.

Now, do you think you can handle the job of an Engineer Officer in the Royal Navy?

The day-to-day duties of an MEO are less dramatic. (Slightly) They include: propulsion of the ship (gas turbines, steam turbines, nuclear power, gearing, shafting and propellers); power generation and distribution - high-pressure air, hydraulics, and life-support systems, hull maintenance, etcetera, and of course the responsibility for managing a department of skilled technicians.

It's a demanding job but Royal Navy training will help you meet the challenge. If you think you can cope with this kind of career, write to: Capt. R.S. Haslow RN, Dept 207A, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

Name _____
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We prefer you to be educated to degree or 'X' level standard, including Maths and Physics. You should be under 26 (qualified graduate Engineers with experience may be accepted up to 32). Normally you should have been a U.K. Resident for the past five years. The Armed Forces are Equal Opportunity Employers under the terms of the Race Relations Act 1976.

ROYAL NAVY OFFICER

1. A TYPICAL NAVAL EXERCISE SCENARIO (PICTURE SHOWS S.C.C. TEAM WEARING ANTI-FLASH GEAR). 2. MARINE ENGINEERING OFFICER. 3. SHIP CONTROL CENTRE. 4. STOREROOM (AVERAGE SIZE 20ft x 12ft x 8ft).

a and one date cost £2.71. The one date cost £2.61. If you buy three, the cost would be £2.51. If you buy four, the cost would be £2.41. If you buy five, the cost would be £2.31. If you buy six, the cost would be £2.21. If you buy seven, the cost would be £2.11. If you buy eight, the cost would be £2.01. If you buy nine, the cost would be £1.91. If you buy ten, the cost would be £1.81. If you buy eleven, the cost would be £1.71. If you buy twelve, the cost would be £1.61. If you buy thirteen, the cost would be £1.51. If you buy fourteen, the cost would be £1.41. If you buy fifteen, the cost would be £1.31. If you buy sixteen, the cost would be £1.21. If you buy seventeen, the cost would be £1.11. If you buy eighteen, the cost would be £1.01. If you buy nineteen, the cost would be £0.91. If you buy twenty, the cost would be £0.81.

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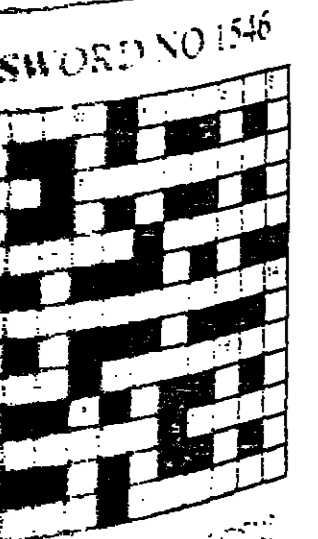
he ticket hospitals? a health service lottery yesterday have a long e. Alan Franks reports

after the formation of Spain's first government. The new cabinet was sworn in on December 17 when the results of El Gato (the cat) were announced. The ceremony, the inauguration of 250 million a year to ticket holders. The treasury minister, Juan Carlos, said the government is committed to build a new state. However, the government's policy is to reduce the deficit and to improve the economy. He said there was nothing to suggest that the government would be able to help the economy. The 1982 Olympic Games are being held in Spain.

LOTTO UP TO £100,000 FIRST PRIZE EVER

LOTTO UP TO £100,000 FIRST PRIZE EVER

SSWORD NO 1546



TIMES DIARY

ROBERT ADLEY

Privates and politicians should adhere to the adage "never complain, never volunteer". This column follows my complaint to the editor about the new diary arrangements. A clear candidate for the Whip's office, he recognized a troublemaker and offered me a job. Avoidance of the first-person singular is not easy for someone whose life support system is immodesty.

As name-dropping seems an essential element to diary writing, philistinism puts me at a singular disadvantage. Those smart West End galleries, musical soirées and "exclusive" establishments can happily include me. Invitation to a forthcoming dinner at Number 10, however, on the occasion of the visit of the Hungarian Prime Minister, reminds me how necessary it is to choose carefully the names of those to whom I am invited. My criteria require the inclusion of at least three of the following four attributes: interesting politics; intelligent, agreeable people; good food; and steam engines still in service. The People's Republic of China, almost alone, scores four out of four.

The Chinese Ambassador, Ji Chaozhu, telephoned the other day. His brother, an American citizen and TV actor, was paying his first visit to Britain, and wanted to embark on a pub crawl. Ji, fairly recently arrived here, asked my wife Jane and me to accompany him, his wife Wang Xiangtong and brother, around some of the more congenial hostilities of Belgraveia and Chelsea. Digging into memories of youth, and abandoning the ambassadorial Rolls, we took in the "Lope, the Australian, the Shuckborough and the Ebury Wine Bar, finishing up with quite excruciatingly awful fish and chips near Victoria Coach Station. Wang Xiangtong remarked later: "That did rather more for our friendship than our digestion". Any country with ambassadors like that must be good news.

Politics is a matter of perception. The pressures applied by the whips, especially to new members, conjure visions of terror in the minds of our fellow-citizens. Yet in eighteen years, my memories of real unpleasantness are non-existent. The job of running the country is not easy, and this government has earned its reward for reasonable competence. The Prime Minister's choice of whips has been masterly, and covers the spectra of party opinion. Some of the ambitious *garagistes*—if Julian Critchley will allow me to borrow a word—take a very different view from our former colleagues, now sadly retired or passed on. Too many of our newer members are still asking the whips what to do, rather than telling them of their voting intentions.

Memories of Maplin returned poignantly on Monday. Rebellious against one's own government is a powerful generator of adrenalin. To one's own assurance of self-righteousness is added the conspiratorial camaraderie of like-minded colleagues, and the encouragement of the (journalistic) lobby, to whom such events are the oxygen of Westminster.

My determination to prevent the construction of a new airport at Foulness, or Maplin as it has become known—rather as Windscale has become Sellafield—led me to introduce a new Clause 1 at the report stage of the Maplin Bill on June 13th 1973, in the days of Ted Heath's government. Plotting with the late Tony Crosland was a civilized affair. Faced with an overall government majority of 31, we achieved our objective, inserting the New Clause in the Bill. Maplin Sands remain tranquil to this day.

Unlike Michael Mates, my courage after the vote deserted me on that night. Fleeing the lobby, the too provided sanctuary for half an hour as the consequences of victory sunk in. Unlike Michael, we rebels joined the company of the member for Cirencester and Tewkesbury, Nicholas Ridley, in the "Aye" lobby.

BARRY FANTONI



"Shouldn't surprise the Government, they've been gambling with the NHS for years"

Railway enthusiasts who are regular travellers on BR sometimes find themselves faced with an interesting predicament: whether to voice criticism of the provider of our favourite form of transport, or to stifle annoyance in the cause of our fancy. Boarding a train home to Dorset recently, anticipation of the joy of travel was stifled by the absence of first-class seats in which to sit. We had flown from Madrid, travelled to Waterloo and now stood in the guard's van, reluctantly unlocked for us, a failed diesel locomotive hauling a freight train added 35 minutes to our sojournal discomfort.

On returning to London on the Monday, the experience was recounted in a letter to the estimable Chris Green, director of BR's Network SouthEast, a man for whom the customer counts. My suggestion of a refund for my fellow-traveller was immediately accepted and a BR cheque winged its way to foreign parts. Anyone who wants either to arrive in comfort and on time or to be fully compensated for lack of first-class accommodation, should contact my secretary who will sift applications. The selection of my chosen traveller will be undertaken carefully and rigorously: a beautiful, intelligent, sly-eyed railway enthusiast, familiar with the attributes of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, stands a good chance.

The author is Conservative MP for Christchurch

One of the most painful dilemmas resulting from medical advance is the question of what to do with the seriously handicapped new born infant.

The problem was put in stark terms this week when Professor Alexander Campbell told an ethical conference in Leeds that hospital doctors were justified in allowing some frail babies to die by withholding or withdrawing life-saving treatment from them.

Professor Campbell went on to say that there were clear cases where withdrawing care or withdrawing life support was justified. But he was doing no more than underlining this fact: doctors still deliberately act to bring to an end the lives of handicapped infants. This was made clear in the evidence given in the Arthur case some years ago, in which a paediatrician was charged with the attempted murder of a Down's Syndrome baby for whom no treatment was provided. That prosecution shocked the medical profession, but it has not really changed its views.

The moral question we have to face is at first glance a simple one. Should doctors and parents—seek to prolong the life of infants whose prospects are extremely poor?

An inclination to give a simple answer is dangerous, as we immediately encounter the difficulty of deciding which infants are involved. There might be fairly general agreement on ex-

Alexander McCall-Smith discusses a new doctors' dilemma

Life or death for a baby

Extreme cases such as the anencephalic baby where there is effectively no brain present, but matters are not so straightforward in relation to the infant suffering from, for instance, spina bifida. There is still disagreement among doctors as to which cases of this condition are worth saving.

As far as Down's Syndrome is concerned, the difference of opinion is even starker. Down's Syndrome children survive and have an increasingly long life expectancy. Is their life really so miserable that parents should be entitled to reject them at birth? In this last case, it is difficult to see the practice as other than homicide.

The main criterion on which the decision is taken as to who shall live and who shall die must be the quality of life which that infant will have.

If the child's life is going to be short and filled with pain, then considerations of beneficence suggest that there it would be morally right to refrain from keeping it alive. If, by contrast, the child could have a reasonable quality of life (and most Down's

Syndrome children must fall into this category) then there is clearly a duty to provide it with such reasonable treatment as to allow it to live.

To argue otherwise, whether on the ground of parental or social convenience, is to justify the abandonment of those for whom society has no use. This is the famous slippery slope, on which some philosophers and lawyers believe we have already set foot.

It is not without significance that there is now a school of thought which claims that parents have a right to commit infanticide during the first few weeks of the infant's life. This position, advocated by writers such as Michael Tooley, is based on the theory that we do not acquire a right to life until we are capable of holding interests, and we do not become capable of that until some time after birth.

Other philosophers talk of a "human community," and suggest that some infants are not in it.

If the decision is taken that the quality of life is such that it would be inappropriate to pro-

long the infant's life, doctors still have to decide what to do.

In one view, the kindest thing to do would be to end the infant's life there and then, by positive intervention. This course, it may be argued, involves the least suffering and is surely more humane than watching a prolonged death.

That may be so, but there are reasons why it cannot be done. The most immediate of these reasons is a legal one. Euthanasia remains an act of homicide. And the motive behind the act is irrelevant. There is always pressure for the reform of the law here, but nowhere, with the exception of The Netherlands, has there been the political will to make a change.

There is also, of course, a profound ethical objection to the performance of positive acts directed towards the ending of a life. In spite of the objections that there is no real moral distinction between inaction and action where the end result in each case is the same, this distinction can still be defended. Taking a positive step to kill involves a close identification

with the result and may well brutalize those who take it.

The only available course of action, then, is to refrain from treating the infant. This means that no operation need be performed, nor need infections be treated: nature is simply allowed to take its course. This holding back will result in the infant's death, hastened by the effect of sedation.

Those who believe in the absolute sanctity of life may object, but there are unlikely to be any serious legal obstacles to such a course in cases where the infant would clearly face bleak and fruitless prospects. Even in the United States, where there exist legions of lawyers ready to sue or prosecute doctors, there has been statutory acceptance of medical judgement as to the circumstances in which non-treatment is in the interests of a severely handicapped child.

The propriety of non-treatment may be considered established, at least in those cases where there is no hope of any reasonable life for the infant, but another issue has now increasingly come to the fore. This is the

question of whether there is an obligation to provide nutrition and hydration for the infant. In principle, we must care for all members of society in this respect, even if the decision has been taken not to provide treatment. Yet does this extend to those whose brief lives will be only marginally extended by the process?

The withdrawal of food and water need not involve great suffering, and will hasten the process of dying, which is, after all, the desired goal. The Americans have answered this question by defining the withdrawal of these basic items of care as child abuse. At the same time their courts have tended to the view that in the case of adults withdrawing artificial nutritional support may be no more than merely terminating an inappropriate form of treatment.

If we consider nutrition a form of treatment rather than a basic obligation of care, then there is no legal problem involved in its withdrawal. If we take the view that it really is a basic obligation, then not providing it would amount to a criminal offence. Doctors must unfortunately live with that uncertainty. Perhaps we should respect our obligations in this respect: the act of providing food and water is symbolic of reverence for life. It is difficult to ignore that.

The author is currently visiting Professor at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Roy Jenkins

Europe's reluctant power

A salient feature of Europe since the war has been the deep-seated reluctance of West Germany to play a strong political hand. Much of the stage of Europe has been occupied by the British and the French, each in their different way, trying to exercise a power somewhat beyond their capacity, and the Germans trying to push power away.

The differing approaches were frequently reflected on the monetary side by the Bundesbank strenuously but unavailingly trying to prevent the D-mark becoming a reserve currency, while the British clung to the Sterling Area long after it made any sense.

This at least has the advantage of showing that leopards can change their spots and nations can learn from experience. Britain, by contrast, just repeats its errors. Having suffered for years from allowing Europe to be made in a Franco-German shape by not going to the Messina Congress and joining at the beginning, it now excludes itself from a 1980s leadership role by remaining frozen outside the European Monetary System.

Nevertheless this German abstinence has produced a grave imbalance. The Federal Republic is inevitably the "middle kingdom" of the Community, as it is also the cis-Atlantic pillar of Nato. Britain may believe that she ought to sit on the right hand of the American captain but it is Germany which is absolutely crucial at the tiller of the European end of the Atlantic Alliance.

This is true for a mixture of economic and geographic reasons. The Alliance was forged in the furnace of the Berlin airlift to defend the frontier of the West which runs through the old Germany, and the combination of loyalty to Washington and economic virility shown by successive Bonn governments has been a crucial factor in making the Americans feel that

the commitment was worthwhile.

There are only two countries in Europe which are vital to the Alliance. One is Germany and the other is Britain. A maverick semi-detachment on the part of France has been accepted from the early 1960s. Italy has been conspicuously loyal but has not been regarded as geographically important. In 1949 she was allowed into Nato only at the last moment, pressingly sponsored by France.

The other members are more cumulatively useful than individually essential. Thus it has always been a false argument to propound that because Denmark or Norway did not harbour nuclear bases Britain could reject them too. Except for a possible knock-on effect, it did not greatly matter what any one of them did. But the defection of either Germany or Britain would always have scuppered the Alliance and forced a profound reappraisal of United States policy.

Of the two, Britain has mostly been the more restless ally, more demanding of both aid and consultation, more threatening of a change of policy if the opposition assumed power (even when its leader was to turn out to be such a loyal lieutenant as did Harold Wilson), more sceptical of American judgement. As long ago as the Cuban missile crisis, for example, the Macmillan government was initially more sceptical of the much prized American photographic evidence than was Adenauer in Bonn (or indeed De Gaulle in Paris, who accepted it and gave his support in a throwaway manner). Germany was not per-



haps the favourite son, her political leadership being a little weak on charm and suspect in history, but always the quietly dependable member of the Alliance family. I vividly remember a Political Co-operation meeting of the European Foreign Ministers 11 years ago. The Americans (not present of course) wanted to stop the Middle East initiative in the ground clear for themselves. The particular issue was not very important. The Americans were probably wrong. Most of the foreign ministers thought so, and

were half inclined to make an issue of it.

The German Foreign Minister (already Hans-Dietrich Genscher) probably agreed on the substance with most of his colleagues, but not on their order of priorities. If the point was crucial and if the Americans wanted their way, they should have it. With all the determined efficiency of a Mercedes plant manager rejecting a rash plan to produce an unnecessary model, he made sure they got it.

This self-abetting role has been an easier one to play in North Atlantic than in European affairs. It is one of the paradoxes of Europe that, while the Federal Republic, at any rate until very recently, has always been a massive and crucial supporter of the European ideal, and of the policies necessary to achieve it, it has never since the end in 1967 of Walter Hallstein's nine year reign as the most successful President of the European Commission adequately sustained the institutions of the Community.

This has shown itself in two ways: first in a German governmental habit of accompanying its proclaimed devotion to Europe by complaining at large about the Commission, rather like a great and fervent Catholic prelate who could not stand the Vatican; and second, insofar as there was force in the first point, doing its best to prevent its being corrected by refusing to appoint first-rate people to Brussels. This has applied both to the Commissioners (Ralf Dahrendorf from 1970-74 was an exception) and to the German ambassadors to the Community.

There is no shortage of first-rate German officials. In London and Washington Germany has mostly been very well represented. And in African capitals the German Ambassadors are frequently the best of the European bunch. But in Brussels Germany has for the past twenty years exercised no intellectual weight commensurate with its pre-eminent economic position,

nor even with that of the economies of France, Britain and Italy.

This has created a weakening semi-vacuum in the heart of Europe. It also affects the future of the Franco-German partnership. Insofar as there has been leadership in Europe in the past twenty years it has come from this axis. This may not always be welcome to Britain, Italy, Spain, or what are now the little seven countries, but it is a fact.

Of the two leaders, France traditionally believes in the more inward approach, looking back to the Europe of the original Six, suspicious of the enlargement of the Community, happy within limits to have a row with America, instinctively rather protectionist. Germany traditionally stands for the opposite. The Gross National Product of Germany is substantially in excess of that of France. In these circumstances the natural assumption would be that the German would mostly prevail. This has not been so. The materialist theory of geopolitics has not worked. Both countries have done well out of the partnership. But France in any view and experience has done better than Germany.

So in both an Atlantic and a European context Germany, the third most powerful economy in the world, finds herself in a subordinate position, mainly by her choice, but the original free choice having somewhat run away with itself. Her greatest period of economic success is almost certainly behind her. But will this then make her more or less content with a political force below her strength? Probably less, in my guess, rather in the way that a family of declining fortune may well become more status conscious. And if Germany becomes discontented, what does this mean for the future of Europe?

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Criminal ignorance

It was the 45th anniversary of the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto on Monday; a Holocaust Day ceremony was held in Hyde Park, London, last week in memory of the six million Jews murdered in Hitler's concentration camps.

Further ceremonies, called Remembering for the Future, will be held by Jewish organizations in July to raise public awareness of the attempt to exterminate their race.

I wouldn't have thought that this would have been necessary. A memorial service: yes. That's essential. But there can't, surely, be any need for busy people to go to all the trouble and expense of trying to make us aware of what we already know. And we do know about the plan to exterminate the Jews. Of course we do. Everyone knows. How could we possibly not? It was, after all, something that happened within the lifetime of many of us. It wasn't that long ago.

Even those not directly involved in the war, or too young to remember, will know all about the terrible events of those years. There is no way that they could escape knowing. The horrors, in all their terrible details, of all the most momentous and evil period of all recorded history have been communicated time and again in every language by word, by mouth and by film.

And yet they do not know. Young, decent, idealistic and educated Britons have little or no idea of what was done to the Jews and others. Some of the brightest and best of our teenagers have no knowledge or understanding of their own recent history. Even the

words—like "Final Solution," "gas chambers" and "concentration camps"—are meaningless to them.

This was clearly and embarrassingly demonstrated on *Kilroy* last week! Otherwise well-educated and informed teenage students from educational establishments as far apart as Lancashire and Sussex revealed an astonishing ignorance of the basic facts of events a mere 40 years ago.

Those who had heard of the Holocaust charmingly and frankly confessed to knowing about it only because they had been informed that it was to be the topic for discussion that day. It is not their fault. We must be clear about that. They cannot be blamed for the gaps in their curriculum, the inadequacy of their education, or the laziness of their teachers.

But someone is to blame. Someone has to be responsible for a state education system that allows bright and inquiring students to enter—and perhaps even leave—university without an appreciation of recent history. Without that, they cannot have any understanding of how we got to where we are today, of why Israel was created and is defended so fiercely, and why Europe is divided. They can have no sensitivity for the fears and ambitions, the prejudice and the principles, that motivate people, classes, races and nations.

It is extraordinary that the new recruits to our electoral roll will know all about a Roman villa but will never have heard of Auschwitz, Dachau or Belsen; will be erudite about the Spanish

Armada but found wanting on the Final Solution; will have the dates of the accession to the throne of all the kings and queens of England but will not be able to identify one cause of the Second World War.

Worse is that even those who have studied history to A level will share in this abysmal ignorance if they're among those whose syllabuses began with the English Civil War and ended with the Great War.

There may be good academic reasons for this. But there is no good reason, no tolerable excuse, for keeping our young people in ignorance of the nightmare attempt to obliterate an entire race.

The organizers of the Holocaust Day and Remembering for the Future are right. There's a criminal lack of knowledge of what the German nation attempted to carry through. It is worsened by the fact that only this newspaper actually reported last week's Holocaust Memorial Service.

This ignorance must be rectified. There cannot be any argument about that. We cannot understand our present unless we know our past. More important, far more important, is our responsibility to impart to the young the depths that humanity is capable of slipping into, to tell them, as Primo Levi insists in *The Drowned and the Saved*, of the cruelty of the victims of the concentration camps even to each other, and to say, "look it happened, therefore it can happen again."

Only by knowing this can we begin to try to see that it doesn't

SCIENCE REPORT

On the mark

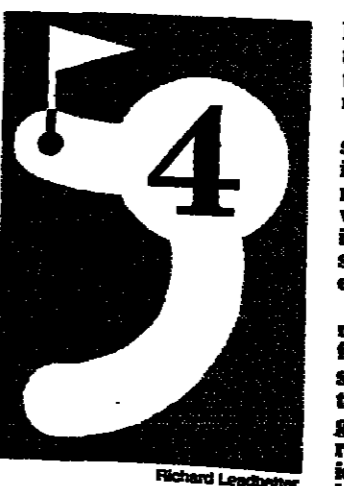
Prenatal diagnosis of the genetic disease called Huntington's chorea will be made more reliable by a development now reported by John J. Wasmuth, of the University of California at Irvine, and a group of US and Canadian researchers.

Huntington's disease is rare, affecting roughly one in 12,000, but because the first symptoms do not appear until middle life, after many carriers have passed it on to their children, and because of the slow progression of the disease towards its invariably fatal outcome, affected families are generally advised to avoid having children.

Writing in *Nature* this week, Wasmuth and his colleagues explain how they have built on the pioneering work of the Harvard group, which was the first to show that the gene for Huntington's disease is located on the shorter of the two arms of human chromosome 4.

That discovery, based on genetic analysis of one family in the United States and another in Venezuela, both carrying the gene, showed that inheritance of the Huntington's gene is most often (but not always) linked with the inheritance of another characteristic of the genetic DNA, called a genetic marker, which has no effect on a person's health, but which is easily recognized in the laboratory.

The Harvard team inferred that its genetic marker, while unambiguously on the same part of chromosome 4 as the Huntington's gene, was suf-



ficiently far away from it that the two were not always inherited together. The development reported from California is that of the discovery of a genetic marker so much closer to the authentic Huntington's gene that the two are almost invariably tied together in inheritance.

Genetic markers of this kind are now increasingly used forensically, for telling parents in cases of disputed domicile rights and for telling whether those charged with crimes may be responsible for blood or semen specimens collected at the scene.

A further advantage of the new Huntington's marker is that it crops up naturally in several varieties, both in those susceptible to Huntington's disease and in normal people. The result is that the members of a single family carrying the

Huntington's gene will all be tagged by the same variety of the marker, which can be recognized by DNA analysis.

The researchers are not yet sure whether their new marker is located physically on chromosome 4 between the Huntington's gene and the authentic marker, or on the other side of the gene, towards the end of the chromosome.

That property and the closeness of the marker to the gene for Huntington's disease should simplify the process of telling which carriers of the gene are likely to have children who are at risk, and to identify the offspring before birth. But this facility will not be an unmitigated blessing during the past five years, physicians have struggled with the dilemma whether to tell people carrying the defective gene of their fate while they are still outwardly healthy.

While the immediate cause of the disease is believed to be the degeneration of brain tissue, nothing is known of the means by which the inheritance of a single defective gene brings this about.

The hope now is that the new marker will be close enough to the gene for the neighbouring DNA to be analyzed in detail, when it may be possible to infer what the gene does and how its effects might be ameliorated, possibly by drugs. Meanwhile, prenatal diagnosis will be more accurate.

HENRY GEE

مكنا من الأصيل

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Various women

Wearing little more than a red dress, dark stockings and smart black slings, Clare Short MP gave Robert Kilroy-Silk the rough edge of her tongue during the Kilroy (BBC1) debate on Page-Three girls.

"You used to be a better man than this, Bob", she groused as he played the street-Arab by trying to make her look at provocative photographs. "I'm not playing this game with you." "I'm running this, not you," snapped her sometime parliamentary colleague.

Bel Mooney, the author of a recent novel about pornography, had no such qualms. Yes, she would ban this, no she would not ban that. Then she spoils it - to the vocal delight of a gaggle of current and aspirant "glamour" models - by confusing the names of Linda Lusardi and Linda Lovelace.

Just before the curtain, Mooney took a deep breath and said: "I think we've reached a point in this society..." And one took a shallow breath and switched off, content to see the assembled parties more entrenched in their opinions than ever.

Women In Black (BBC2) was a classic 40 Minutes on the condition of widowhood, in which three widely differing subjects were used to suggest the common denominators of this vicissitude. The first widow's husband died of cancer; the second was bereaved by a grotesque colliery accident; the last is the widow of Gordon Hamilton-Fairley, who was blown up by a terrorist bomb in 1975.

What obviously connected these three was the solidity of the relationship which death tore down, but in organizing its profiles the way it did - from the youngest and most recently bereaved to the oldest and most experienced - the programme tacitly hinted that the passage of years may bring a mellowing of grief.

One can only guess at this intention: the presence of absence is not to be rendered in a documentary without extreme artificiality.

Martin Cropper

John Russell Taylor on a revolutionary show by a 19th century master opening in London today

Surprising Cézanne

GALLERY

Cézanne: The Early Years Royal Academy of Arts

Despite the instructions of a long line of commentators, from Roger Fry on, there is still a surprising number of people around who do not care for Cézanne.

Yes, of course we all know how important he was in the birth of Cubism, and so as a pointer along the highway of modern art. But it is still perfectly possible to find his characteristic colour range, dictated by his native Provence, curiously arid and unappealing, or to feel that there is often something rather endstanced and inhuman about his later paintings, as though he is much more fascinated by the geometry he can construct out of naked bodies, than by the warm flesh and the life within it.

For anyone who feels that way, the new show at the Royal Academy, Cézanne: The Early Years (until August 21) will be a revelation. It ends with Cézanne at the age of 33, on the threshold of his mature style, that of 1872, which shows him as bald, bearded and regarding the spectator with an expression somewhat melancholy perhaps, but certainly defensive and mistrustful.

It is hard to believe that this is the same man, painted by the same hand, as the self-portrait at the start of the show, which dates from just 10 years earlier. It is true that the expression is, even then, none too friendly, but it is as though he has turned from an angry young man into a disillusioned old man in barely a decade.

The Cézanne in his early twenties is clearly a man of strong passions, and the paintings he was to produce in the next 10 years bear unarguable witness to that. They are generally said, in Cézanne criticism, to be very awkward and technically maladroit; he was supposedly a slow and late



Deliberated, slightly stiff pattern-making: "Young Girl at the Piano - Overture to Tannhäuser" c.1869-70, from the show at the Royal Academy

developer. But that is not at all the impression that one receives from seeing so many of the early works gathered together and isolated, apparently for the first time on this scale.

Indeed, the very first works shown, the series of decorative panels of the seasons he did for the grand salon of his father's house in 1860-62, are if anything too smooth and accomplished, looking suspiciously like something Rex Whistler or Albert Rutherston might have turned out for a millionaire home in the Thirties. Also, their colours are unexpectedly high-pitched.

The smoothness proves not to be otherwise characteristic of early Cézanne, but the vibrant colour does. One could confidently defy anybody, unexpectedly face-to-face with a painting like "The

Feast" (alternatively known as "The Orgy") of c.1870, to guess that it was by Cézanne of all people: its brilliant colour and loose, writing composition could suggest almost anyone but he.

Almost anyone 20th century, that is, for this Cézanne emerges as an amazingly modern figure. But of course, you say, we are very used to regarding Cézanne as the precursor of modernism. Not this kind of modernism, however: it is the modernism of the expressionists, the modernism of, say, Soustine or Rouault.

Among Cézanne's own contemporaries one cannot compare him with any of the "official" artists, or even the official rebels, but must look instead to marginal figures like Daubigny, and occasionally Guys. It is almost as though he defiantly took up this "marginal"

attitude himself, wilfully picking subjects erotic to the verge of pornography, or adding an extra level of shock to the already-shocking subjects of Manet such as "Olympia" or the "Déjeuner sur l'Herbe".

But all through the show it is quite clear that this is a painter who knows exactly what he is doing. If the figures in "The Temptation of Saint Anthony" or "The Robbers and the Ass" or his "Pastoral" self-portrait, surrounded by nudes in some Wagnerian Venusberg, are distorted, it is with the force of his intense and glowing vision of life.

We are constantly aware of the painter as young Romantic. The slightly stiff pattern-making of "Young Girl at the Piano: Overture to Tannhäuser" is equally deliberate, and there is nothing

accidental either about the way that, in some of the portraits from this period, the paint is applied heavily, with a palette knife, to create a feeling of almost painful directness and immediacy.

It seems unlikely to hail a show of paintings done more than a century ago as revolutionary, but that this show surely is. It will certainly revolutionize our attitudes to Cézanne, if only because it presents a Cézanne much more obviously to the taste of the Age of Aquarius than the cool calculator of his mature years could ever be.

And this time Britain is not left out of the international circuit: the show goes on the Musée d'Orsay and the National Gallery in Washington. It is nice to be able to say, for once: if you saw it first, you saw it here.

JAZZ

Blues in the night

James Blood Ulmer Pied Bull, Islington

The guitarist James Blood Ulmer has always been one of the music world's more protean figures, with early influences covering blues and R'n'B as much as jazz. He is the pioneer of the impenetrable "harmolodics" but also a more down-to-earth bluesman.

His album Tales Of Captain Black - recorded with Ornette Coleman - has baffled and entranced listeners in equal measure for the best part of 10 years. His live appearances have been just as unpredictable.

Launching a three-date British tour, Ulmer seemed determined to maintain his cult status, arriving at 10 o'clock, almost two hours after the advertised start of the show. The reason for the delay, it transpired, was religious. Ulmer and his bass player Jamaaladeen Tacuma are, apparently, Muslims since we are now in Ramadan they did not feel free to set off from their hotel until after sunset.

With so little time to prepare, Ulmer was obviously going to be a fraught evening. As the drummer Calvin Weston led us into "Lady Blue", Ulmer's guitar was lost somewhere deep down in the sound mix. Tacuma's bass was hardly any more distinct, even on the more conventional blues routines.

For the first set Ulmer rarely strayed from undemanding blues material, with the occasional burst of vocals. Strangely, the sound quality grew even worse, and after 40 minutes in an oppressively steamy hall it was clear that critical listening would be impossible.

The audience would have been well advised to stay at home to listen to last year's offering, America - Do You Remember The Love?, on which Ulmer, Bill Laswell and Ronald Shannon Jackson explore the kind of intelligent jazz-rock which could easily have found a niche in late-night Radio One.

Clive Davis

Holly Hill on a contentious, flawed Broadway production of "the Scottish Play"

Double, double toil and trouble

THEATRE

Macbeth Mark Hellinger, New York

The story of the Broadway production of Macbeth is almost as bloody as Shakespeare's play. En route to New York it lost two directors, one set and one lighting designer, four Macduffs and additional cast members, and staggered through 26 cases of flu and assorted injuries. After this much-publicized ordeal, everyone is sick of being reminded of the curse of "the Scottish Play".

Starring Christopher Plummer and Glenda Jackson, this Macbeth is neither cursed nor blessed. Most missed is a sense of concentrated focus and tone throughout the play, but how could it be otherwise with these directors? Kenneth Frankel is given programme credit for "original direction", Zoë Caldwell for "additional direction" and, apparently at his own request, Robin Phillips is not mentioned as the filler in this sandwich.

On Daphne Dare's handsome monolithic set in weathered grey wood, with Patricia Zippodri's attractive 11th century costumes, this directorial triumvirate has variously come up with some stunning effects. These include Banquo's murder done in darkness, followed instantly by lights up on the royal banquet in full revel. The staging for the appearances of Banquo's ghost may surprise even those who know the play well.

The director's debits encompass miking the witches, which makes



Dead only in spirit: Glenda Jackson offers intensity of emotion but absence of self while sleepwalking

them resemble media freaks rather than supernatural creatures, and such casting errors as a Duncan and Malcolm so dull that one sympathizes with Macbeth's desire to kill them.

Except when she is dissembling in public, Glenda Jackson's Lady Macbeth is a formidable but unimaginative woman whose embrace of evil, together with alarm at its consequences, are clear and absolute.

It is a memorable performance, from Miss Jackson's voiceless sign of resolution before summoning evil spirits, through her sinking to the floor with the bloody daggers, to the sleepwalking scene with its combined intensity of emotion and absence of self. It is clear Lady

Macbeth has already died in spirit. Christopher Plummer has a sizeable talent, but in spite of numerous opportunities, he has never reached the front rank of stage actors. A mannerism that has hardened with age has held him back with a joyless half-smile and wary eyes, he appears to look upon the world with a smirk, as if it were an off-colour joke.

His Macbeth is more an illustration of the banality of evil than the tragedy of the man of stature

destroyed by ambition. He is best once he is crowned: when he gives orders for Banquo's murder and for battle with effortless command, or suggests a growing madness from the speech about Banquo's seed, and feelingly laments his wife's death.

In the performance, however, one never meets the good man who is corrupted. For this and the other reasons cited, this British-Canadian-American Macbeth is a pretty good show, but no win.

Stripped of glamour

Privates on Parade Birmingham Repertory

Peter Nichols is on record as disliking the emphasis on glamour in the Aldwych production of his 1977 hit, and appears to have set to work on revisions almost from the start. This new production, on Birmingham's cavernous stage, draws on material from the Faber and Samuel French editions (both 1977) as well as the Methuen edition of the collected plays (1987); and there are changes even from this latest text.

Gone is the Andrews Sisters parody of the pistol-packing deputy of Oklahoma, though my memory of this in the original has faded. The point made by the words is of no great importance.

The play took its origin in Nichols's experience, just after the War, touring Malaya as a member of an Ensa concert party. Fellow performers included Stanley Baxter and Kenneth Williams and, on that amazing foundation of fettledress and built camp in foreign parts, Nichols built one of his characteristic structures of story, song and mordant comedy. The misadventures of a concert party troupe, sent upcountry by a crack-brained major into jungle

seething with Communist insurgents, is coupled with that of a callow youth's loss of sexual and ethical virginity. It is far more, however, than Virgin Soldiers meet Love and War, because through his parodies of popular songs of the period, and even more their placing after scenes of carnage and folly, Nichols mounts an attack on the old Imperial and Church Parade mystique that is blistering while entertaining. It is a high-wire act: but Nichols has always been a high-wire act.

This definitive version replaces the young-love ending with the quasi-heroic act of the outrageously camp, fundamentally decent captain Terri Dennis, in marrying the pregnant Eurasian girl after she is abandoned by her lover. It is hard to understand how the alternative could ever have been preferred. Along with this, the whole show (director Derek Nicholls) is sower and deliberately less glam.

These changes are all to the good, but the opportunity to judge them finally must await less grating performances than those surrounding Paul Greenwood's Terri. Eric Allen's batty Major is an honourable exception.

Jeremy Kingston

Partners again

Northern Ballet Theatre Sadler's Wells

DANCE

Northern Ballet Theatre opened its two week season at Sadler's Wells on Tuesday with the programme which John Percival reviewed from Manchester last November. But, shorn of the Aurora's Wedding diversissement, it makes a rather insubstantial evening.

The principal item on the bill is A Simple Man, Gillian Lynne's ballet about the life and work of L.S. Lowry. I suspect that to admit indifference to Lowry in Manchester is equivalent to advocating more battery hens or concreting over the national parks, but honesty forces me to confess that I find little to admire in Lowry's paintings. And I am afraid much the same goes for Miss Lynne's ballet, apart from the central performances of Christopher Gable and Lynn Seymour as the painter and his mother.

The most glamorous male star the Royal Ballet ever produced, Gable is now artistic director of Northern Ballet, and it is a real pleasure to see him back on stage renewing his partnership with Seymour. He gives a rounded portrait of the eccentric, mother-obsessed painter, which just about

holds the ballet together. Seymour as Mrs Lowry is possessive, sly and totally feminine.

But the central roles apart, the ballet looks pretty thin stuff. Not many choreographers have solved the problem of transforming painting, a static two-dimensional medium, into dance, which is essentially three-dimensional and should be about movement. On this occasion Miss Lynne is not among that select band.

The remainder of the programme includes Amedeo Amadio's Suite Italienne, a set of dances to Stravinsky's Pulcinella Suite, transcribed by the composer for violin and piano. Crisper dancing and a more acute sense of style are needed to restore the character to this week, and the playing left something to be desired.

Mémoire Imaginaire, by Michael Pink, purports to be about Berthe Morisot and Edouard Manet, and consists of two perfectly predictable pas de deux, in which Mireille Bourgeois loves Manet when he is danced by Duncan de Gruchy, but not when he becomes Didier Genetiff. Neither choreography nor programme provides an explanation.

Judith Cruickshank



Christopher Gable and Lynn Seymour as J.S. Lowry and his mother

CONCERT

Capricorn Purcell Room

Here was the parental hostess's problem twice over: how to select and arrange a group of disparate objects so that they work together in some way. The composer James Ellis faced it in his "Mountain Steps", a set of five diverse movements for mixed septet, and the planners of this concert faced it in their placing of Ellis's work with four American pieces that were themselves oddly assorted.

In neither case did the party quite take off, although some of the guests were well worth meeting.

The most impressive performance was that of Elliott Carter's Sonata for flute, oboe, cello and harpsichord, a work not often heard by reason of its instrumentation. A long generation ago, when it was new, it might have seemed a likely candidate for inclusion in an evening of trio Sonatas.

One effect of the "authenticity" movement has been to sever the connections between the 18th century and such works as this, whose highly sophisticated neo-classicism is perhaps comparable only with that of Debussy's late sonatas.

The four members of Capricorn found in it a similar delicacy, polish and irony, but of course with a heavier energy and a punchier assertion of individual characters, with Catherine Edwards weightlessly dexterous at the harpsichord and the others - the flautist Heshan Rubeman, the oboist Robin Carter and the cellist Timothy Mason - all emitting their parts with confidence.

Carter also excelled in the first movement of the new Ellis piece, an oboe solo in which he contrived some unusual pizzicissimo effects: this was beautiful playing of a not very 'extraordinary' invention. After it came two active but essentially unvaried ensemble movements, the second remarkable for a shrill use of high woodwind, then a little slow movement of quiet chords and gong strokes, and a finale that was a quodlibet, ending oddly with a sort of folk song.

Perhaps the intention was to present an arbitrary grouping, but the result was curiously satisfactory, and was made the more so by movement titles that concealed more than they disclosed: "Ruh..." had obvious relevance to the fourth movement, but "Feasdan na Ciche" goes beyond at least this level of competence. I am not even sure whether the title of the whole work was meant to be a pun.

The rest of the programme included Copland's Piano Quartet, with its crucial central scherzo effectively brought off, a properly cool central performance by Martin Kelly in the second of Feldman's "Viola in My Life" pieces, and Michael Park's regrettable "Yellow Pages".

Paul Griffiths

FORCED DISPOSAL HIGHLY IMPORTANT PUBLIC AUCTION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED EXCEPTIONALLY FINE AND MEDIUM QUALITY, HANDMADE PERSIAN CARPETS RUGS AND RUNNERS... BONDING WAREHOUSES... PUBLIC AUCTION AT... SALE 1: HAMPSTEAD AUCTION ROOMS... SALE 2: THE CLARENDON HOTEL... SALE 3: THE ENGLISH SPEAKING MERCHANTS HOUSE...

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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
 ★ Seats available
 ★ Returns only
 (D) Access for disabled

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT:** Hit black blues show, with Carol Woods, Sarah Woollett, Helen Collier and a Strakz singing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago hotel. Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street, W1 (01-437 4608). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 8pm and Sat 8pm, Fri 8.30pm and 9.15pm. £2.50-£14.50. (D)

★ **THE BROWNING VERSION/MARLEQUINADE:** Rattigan grand drama: starchy cast led by Dorothy Tutin and Paul Eddington. Royal Lyceum Theatre, Portugal Street WC2 (01-831 0660). Tube: Holborn, Mon-Sat 10.15pm, matrs 8.15pm and Sat 5.15pm. £7.50-£13.50.

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT:** Simon Gray play traces the fortunes of underground friends; splendid cast led by Rik Mayall, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gorman. Shaftesbury Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11.15pm, matrs 8-10.15pm and 8.15pm. £5-£14.50.

★ **CUTTING EDGE:** Adaptation of Gorbunov's "Woe from Wit", one of the great satires of the Russian theatre and the earliest. 1950. Pentameters. Three Horse Shoes Public House, Heath Street NW4 (01-435 8757). Tube: Hampstead. Wed-Sun 8-9.45pm. £3.50.

★ **THE MIRACLE WORKER:** William Gibson's celebrated play showing how blind young Helen Keller learnt to communicate; with Hildegarde Neil, Daryl Back, Ian Lavender. Westminster Theatre, Palace Street SW1 (01-834 0283). Tube: Victoria. Tues-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, matrs Wed and Thurs 7.45-9.30pm. £3-5.30pm. £5-12.50.

★ **THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1946:** New York comedy-thriller starring Simon Cadell, Tom Baker, Margaret Courtenay, Sheila Steafel, Maria Friedman; set in a country mansion cut off (you can see it) from Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill SE10 (01-858 7755). Tube: Greenwich. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, matrs Sat 2.30pm, £3-£10.

★ **NANA:** Shared Experience's vigorous production of the tale of a descendant abandoned in the Bois de Boulogne. Mermaid Theatre, Puddle Dock EC4 (01-236 5568). Tube: Blackfriars. Mon-Fri 7.30-9.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, matrs Wed 3pm-5pm and Sat 4-6.30pm. £5-£10.50.

★ **ZIEGFELD:** Spectacular musical based on the life of the man who made the famous *Follies*, and costing a bomb. With Len Cariou, Geoffrey Hutchins and Louise Gold. London Palladium, 8 Oxford Street W1 (01-437 7373). Tube: Oxford Circus. Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30-10.15pm, matrs Sat 2.45-5.30pm. Opens Mon 7.30-10.15pm, then as before with matrs on Wed 2.45-5.30pm. Previews Tues 4.50-7.50pm, Fri 8.30pm, £3.25-£21.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queens Theatre (01-734 1186). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayhew Theatre (01-625 3038). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4079). ★ Chess: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8511). ★ Tobacco: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-373 5555). ★ Street Drury Lane Theatre (01-836 8108/910). ★ Kiss Me Kate: Savoy Theatre (01-836 8888).

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 24
CHAETERIOUS
 (c) Having bristles or excess hair, from the Greek *chaeter*, long, flowing hair + *phairis* to carry; also *chaeterophorus*.
GUPPIE
 (a) An ecologically-minded, concerned Yuppie, interested in well-intentioned causes, such as the protection of whales (or Wakes), from (Green) + yuppie.
CHERMANY
 (b) A type of baseball played in the South of the United States.
MENIPPE
 (c) The name of a Nereid in Hesiod; the mother of Orpheus; a Muse; and other quiet, First-Division Ancient Greek heroines.

Theatre (01-836 8888). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111, cc 01-836 1171). ★ He and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7914). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Palace Theatre (01-434 0905). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-839 2244). ★ Fun For Your Wife: Comedy Theatre (01-830 3216). ★ Serious Money: Wyndham's Theatre (01-836 3028). ★ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8665). ★ And Then There Were None: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

OUT OF TOWN

BASILDON: ★ As You Like It: British Actors Theatre Company with Kate O'Riordan and Graham Purthey open the new 55th million Theatre, Pagel Mead (0268 532623), Mon-Sat 8pm, matrs Thurs 2.30pm, £6-£8.50.

LEEDS: ★ Jane Eyre: Wendy Nottingham and David Gwillim in intriguing new adaptation by Fay Weldon. Playhouse, Calverly Street (0532 442111), Mon & Tues 8pm, Wed-Sat 7.30pm, £4.50-£6.

STRATFORD: ★ Much Ado About Nothing: Maggie Stead and Clive Merrison in first play in fifteen years to be directed by a woman (Dr Travis) on the main stage. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon (0789 285623) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, matrs Thurs & Sat 1.30pm, £4.50-£27.50.

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
 ★ **Advance booking possible**
 ★ **THE BELIEVERS (18):** Mysterious deaths and sacrifices take place when Carl (Marlon Brando) and his son Chris move to New York and become involved with a religious cult (113 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 1.15, 4.15, 8.45, 11.15.

★ **FATAL ATTRACTION (18):** A thriller: a woman (Glenn Close) seeks revenge on Michael Douglas, his wife (Anne Archer) and family. Adrian Lyne directs this unsettling thriller (119 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.15, 6.10, 9.15.

★ **BROADCAST NEWS (15):** Slick drama about network TV journalism from James L Brooks. Eric Roberts, John Goodman, with William Hurt, Albert Brooks, Holly Hunter as the trio caught in a jumble of professional and romantic problems (132 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.15, 6.10, 9.15.

★ **OCEAN VERDE (15):** A pale copy of Werner Herzog's past excursions in high adventure and visionary dreams; with Klaus Kinski as a disgruntled South American explorer who takes his revenge through bandy (90 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.15, 6.10, 9.15.

★ **CRY FREEDOM (PG):** Richard Attenborough's bumper bundle of exciting spectacle and liberal sentiments; with Kevin Kline as a journalist from North Woods, drawn into the case of South African activist Steve Biko (Denzel Washington) (158 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 12.05, 2.25, 4.45, 7.10, 9.30, 11.55.

★ **EMPIRE OF THE SUN (PG):** J G Ballard's autobiographical novel about a British child in Shanghai caught by the invading Japanese in the Second World War; filmed by Steven Spielberg with great panache. With Christian Bale, John Malkovich and Nigel Havers (163 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 1.05, 4.15, 7.40, 11.15.

★ **MOONSTRUCK (PG):** Should Cher lead the Central Casting list of 1988? Follow her heart and go for her brother, Nicholas Cage? Norman Jewison took the Best Director award at the Berlin Film Festival and Cher the Best Actress Oscar (102 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 1.35, 3.50, 6.05, 8.20.

★ **THREE MEN AND A CRY (PG):** British Hollywood remake of a firmly established genre. Tom Selleck, Dan Aykroyd and Steve Guttenberg play confirmed believers suddenly thrust into the problems of babyface. Leonard Nimoy directs. (103 min). Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 1.05, 4.15, 7.40, 11.15.

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Makeba and her music

The singer Miriam Makeba was an international celebrity long before Paul Simon recruited her to his *Graceland* touring party. Well known in Britain for her "click" songs, she became a star in the United States with her 1967 hit "Pata Pata". She was appointed as a Guinean delegate to the United Nations - to whom she had appeared as early as 1963 for an American boycott and arms embargo against her native South Africa - and, among other recognitions, received the Dag Hammarskjöld Peace Prize in 1986.

Tonight she plays the first of four British concerts to promote a new album, *Scorpions*, and her autobiography, *Makeba My Story*. Some sort of it: protest singer in school and church; national tour at the age of 20; exiled from South Africa in 1960; dogged by deaths in her family; married five times (husbands included Stokely Carmichael, former Black Panther, and Hugh



Miriam Makeba: new tour for the first lady of the African continent

Makeba, trumpet player); a grandmother at 19; befriended by Balfanz starting part in the South African musical *King Kong*; cancer diagnosed; the *Graceland* tour... Donald Woods described her this day as "first lady of the African continent in the concert halls of the world". Her tour starts tonight at the Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031 728 1164) 7.30pm. £5.50-£5.50; tomorrow, Manchester Apollo (061273 3775); Sunday, Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 291768); Monday, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01 748 4081). David Sinclair

Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149). Progs 1.05, 4.15, 7.40, 11.15.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 Central AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports highlights.
6.40 Friday Prayers for Ramadan 1408 AH. The first of four programmes...

BBC2

- 6.55 Open University: Light Waves or Particles. Ends at 7.20.
9.00 World Snooker. Second round action on day seven of the Embassy World Professional Championship...



Humphrey Burton introduces the string semifinal (BBC2, 6.50pm)

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with The Sports Show introduced by Geoff Clark: 6.30 The Morning Show with Richard Keys, 7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris...

CHANNEL 4

- 12.00 Nature in Focus. This second in the series examining wildlife in a combination of micro-photography and dramatized sequences...

VARIATIONS

- BBC1 WALES 8.30pm-9.00pm News Today. 7.00pm News followed by Neighbours 10.20pm.
BBC2 WALES 8.30pm-9.00pm News Today. 7.00pm News followed by Neighbours 10.20pm.



Investigative reporter Steve Bailey: a member of the popular press doing an unpopular job (Secret Services: BBC2, 10.05pm)

Exposé of the scandal mongers

The premise behind the jobs described in Secret Services (BBC2, 10.05pm) is that most of us would not be seen dead doing them. That being so, it seems odd that tonight's choice of unwanted calling is investigative journalism...

TELEVISION CHOICE

nately for Steve, and for the programme, this enticing bait soon gets a nibble. There is a heart-stopping moment in Lavender Hill when a tout comes within a whisker of unmasking Steve's hidden tape recorder but having survived that, our man is unstoppable...

Peter Waymark

Quizzical circus

Trivial? Or educational? Clearly, the question "What is the caloric value of a slice of buttered toast?" is of more than academic interest to those who have lost sight of their toes...

RADIO CHOICE



Magnus Magnusson: a quiz master quizzed (R4, 4.05pm)

ringmaster of this quizzical circus (was there ever any doubt about who should crack the whip?) is Ray Loud, the man who complicates the questions for Trivial Pursuit...

Peter Davalle

AN Yves ST LAURENT BLAZER FROM SUIT CO THAT WON'T BURN A HOLE IN YOUR POCKET. YSL BLAZERS FROM £99. £1000 INSTANT CREDIT AVAILABLE. SUIT CO PART OF HUGO BOSS PLC.

Radio 1, Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 4. MW (medium wave), Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1). 4.00 Colin Berry 5.30 Chris Stewart 7.30 John Steiner 9.30 Ken Colby...

Radio 4. LW (long wave) (S) Stereo on VHF 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 Today presented by John Peel. 7.00 News. 7.25 6.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.00 News. 8.15 8.15 Your Letters. 8.57 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 News. 9.15 9.15 Your Letters. 9.57 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.05 News. 10.15 10.15 Your Letters. 10.57 Weather. 11.00 News. 11.05 News. 11.15 11.15 Your Letters. 11.57 Weather. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.15 12.15 Your Letters. 12.57 Weather.

Moscow has a change of heart over refusenik

By Andrew McEwen

For the second time in two months Britain appeared yesterday to have persuaded the Soviet Union to allow a middle-aged Jewish widow living in Leningrad to leave to join her son in London.

Mrs Rima Sosna, aged 58, was given the news by Soviet emigration officials, while the British Charge d'Affaires in Moscow, Mr Noel Marshall, was told by the Soviet Foreign Ministry that "the problems had been resolved", according to Whitehall sources.

The Soviet change of heart followed a protest by Mr Marshall last week after Mrs Sosna had been told she would not, after all, be allowed to go. Britain had felt betrayed by that decision, because the day before Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, visited Moscow in February. Mrs Sosna was told that permission would be coming through. It was clearly intended as a friendly gesture to the British Government, which has repeatedly raised her case.

Mrs Sosna has been waiting for 14 years to come to London, but all previous applications have been turned down on the grounds that she had had access to state secrets. Her family found this hard to understand because she had worked in a low-technology industry.

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday: "Obviously we are glad that the problems have been resolved, but the problems should never have arisen."

Meanwhile, another British official in Moscow again pressed for the release of Mr Vladimir Tufeld, aged 60, a sick Jewish man whose wife is

critically ill in a Baltimore hospital. He was told earlier this week that he would be considered a security risk until 1992, although he was sacked in 1977 from his job as an electronics engineer.

His wife Isolde, aged 56, was allowed to leave in December for an operation to remove a brain tumour following an appeal by Mrs Thatcher. But the operation appears not to have succeeded.

Mr David Mellor, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, in a speech in Vienna last Friday, contrasted the promises and the reality of Moscow's human rights performance. "We are encouraged by trends that Mr Gorbachev has set in motion. But these glimmers of hope are set against a background which remains gloomy."

Britain has also been maintaining pressure for the release of Mr Vasil Shipilov, a 66-year-old Russian Christian, who has been in prisons or psychiatric hospitals for 48 years.

● VIENNA: A Soviet Jew, Mr Alexander Paritsky, arrived here yesterday with his wife and daughter after waiting 12 years for permission to emigrate to Israel (AFP reports). He is the 3,049th Soviet Jew to reach Vienna this year, according to the Jewish Agency.

Mr Paritsky, aged 50, lost his job as director of research at the Kharkov Meteorology Institute when he applied for a visa in 1976. Four years later, he founded a university for children of refuseniks. He was arrested in 1981 and sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Royal support for Africa



The Princess Royal launching a new book on famine-struck Africa in London yesterday.

By Howard Foster

A new book designed to explain problems of African famine to the millions of post-Ethiopian disaster supporters of overseas charities was launched by the Princess Royal yesterday.

The Princess called the London press conference in her capacity as President of the Save the Children Fund. The book, *Prospects for Africa*, was commissioned by the Save the Children Fund as the first non-specialist attempt since the special UN conference in New York in 1986 to explain to the lay person the situation in famine-struck Africa.

A week after her speech at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in which she called for more Western trade with Africa, she returned to the attack, highlighting the main areas of weakness in sub-Saharan Africa.

She spoke of the need for aid, the debt problem, the need for more investments, environmental problems, rehabilitation, food aid, health and addressed herself to the problems of AIDS.

"There are encouraging signs that the international community has come to realize that everybody is in the same boat when it comes to AIDS," she said. "If they don't share the knowledge that they have there will be a major calamity."

The Princess Royal told journalists that African nations had to export more than 25 per cent more goods than they did 10 years ago to buy the same quantity of imports.

"The simple way to aid Ethiopia would be to buy its corned beef," she said. "... Some people might think because of giving aid to Ethiopia in terms of food you should not go and buy its corned beef. In essence it is exactly what you ought to be doing, providing a market for the rural population."

Prospects for Africa is published by Hodder and Stoughton, price £5.95. All royalties to the Save the Children Fund.

Question of the Soames socks

Mr Nicholas Soames was wearing yellow socks.

There are days on which the wearing of yellow socks by Mr Nicholas Soames is by far the most interesting news, even though the Opposition continues to ignore all opportunities to demand a major debate on the issue.

With his unusually cheery face and well-fed body, Mr Soames can bring a smile to the most militant Member, thereby disarming much anti-Government angst. Many suspect that his wearing of yellow socks is a further plot to weaken the Opposition.

Mr Tony Benn will by now have gathered eagle-eyed researchers together to try to plot a line between the CIA, MIS, South Africa, the BBC and Mr Soames's yellow socks. Are Mr Soames's yellow socks in the employment of the multi-nationals? Will Mr Soames soon enter the Chamber wearing full Morris Dancing kit while Mr Ron Brown accompanies him on Mace?

The leader of the Opposition was forced to shout over the loudness of Mr Soames's socks in order to make himself heard during Prime Minister's Questions. There was an old lady in his constituency who had to live on less than £10 a week, as she had recently lost her housing benefit and was still unable to sell her house. Mr Kinnoch excels when dealing with the specific given an old lady who is the victim of Government policies, he is acerbic, emotional and convincing; given two or more old ladies in a similar plight, he becomes verbose, half-hearted and strangely tiresome.

With her eyes turned firmly away from the glimmer of Mr Soames's socks — the colour of a canary with jaundice, perhaps, or a cowardly banana — the Prime Minister sought to reply to the Leader of the Opposition. In many ways, she is the opposite of Mr Kinnoch: in that a stadium-full of old ladies brings out all her passion and eloquence, while a penultimate note creeps into her voice if she is asked to talk about just one "if there is any difficulty in that particular case... she replicates, pronouncing the word 'particular' as if it were a form of abuse. She then advises that the victim

should get in touch with the relevant department.

Aha! But, said Mr Kinnoch, this victim had been in touch with the relevant department, and they had written a curt letter back. Why would the Prime Minister not change the regulations, and thus relieve "anxiety, fear and poverty"? Mr Kinnoch grows increasingly like that emotional and highly successful Country and Western singer, Mr Kenny Rogers, lifting away his ballads of distress and disability, rounding them off with rollicking choruses wherein can be found a moral of tear-jerking intensity.

Sadly, the Prime Minister has revealed in the past that her favourite singer is Mr Andy Williams, who tends to eschew the crackle in his throat and the tear on the cheek in favour of the cushion on the easy chair. Presumably to give advice to Mr Kinnoch's old lady, Mrs Thatcher purred that "it should not be too difficult to arrange a loan from the bank. Such advice suggests that she was not in the field of politics rather than an alternative profession: such as personal counselling. With real irritation in his voice, Mr Kinnoch told her that she didn't live in the real world, and asked her for the name of a building society which would leap at the idea of supplying mortgages to 73-year-olds.

Mr Kinnoch returned to his seat quaking with annoyance, shaking his fists, his legs and his head in turn, a furious Basil to Mrs Thatcher's calm and all-knowing Sybil. But a kindly word from the reassuring figure of Mr Frank Dobson, combined, perhaps, with a quick glance in the direction of Mr Soames's yellow socks, soon put a smile back on his face.

It was left to Mr Tony Banks to take things a bit more seriously. He called on the Leader of the House to arrange for a debate on the Arts. He wished the House to give its advice to Lady Soames over the running of the National Theatre. And perhaps, he suggested, Lady Soames could be prevailed upon to give advice to her son upon the sensitive topic of the extraordinary yellowness of his socks.

Craig Brown

Nurses win 15.3% rise

Continued from page 1

ministers have been forced to give a commitment that the nurses award will be fully funded. We will be watching like hawks to make sure they keep to that promise."

Mr Frank Field, chairman of the Commons social services select committee, whose call earlier this year for an extra £2 billion to be spent on the NHS was brusquely cast aside by ministers, said last night: "While it is a good settlement, it is also noticeable that the Government has accepted one of the main recommendations of the select committee's report which it was quick to dismiss when it was published earlier this year.

"No matter how good this settlement, however, it won't prevent further cuts and closures this year unless the Government makes a similar settlement with the ancillary workers, paying in full what the Government says those workers should be given."

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said: "It shows

that the Government recognizes the problems that exist within the nursing service at the moment. This is only the first thing that needs to be done to solve the problems of recruitment and retention."

Mr Hector MacKenzie, general secretary of Cobse, the health service union, said that the Government had recognized that the crisis in morale was such that it had to agree an award of this size.

"But the most important thing is going to be implementation, and that has got to be done by local health authorities with the greatest of sensitivity because, if they don't, there could still be some difficulties later on this year."

On the award's effect on the NHS crisis, he said: "It is not going to solve the problems of getting nurses back into the profession."

Mr Mackenzie said: "We give notice that the campaign goes on for those hundreds of thousands of health workers not covered by the review bodies."

"The Government

shouldn't think that they can buy off the nurses. They won't be satisfied until they have secured proper funding for the NHS and a decent pay rise for other health staff."

Ms Ada Maddocks, national officer of Nalgo's 70,000 NHS members, and chairperson of the TUC health service committee, said: "This is fairground economics, with a lottery to pay for the NHS and a lottery to decide who wins a decent pay rise."

Mr Donald Macgregor, NHS Officer for the GMB, the general workers' union, said: "More lies and deceptions from the Government. We estimate that it would take a pay increase of at least 20 per cent for nurses to even begin to properly fund the new grading."

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, leader of Nupe, said: "Britain's nurses have gone through four years of government betrayal and a mass campaign of public protest to win an award that is free from interference and funded in full."

"It is a victory and vindication for nurses who were

Gunmen hold 42 hostage

Mexico City (Reuter) — Shooting broke out yesterday between police and gunmen holding 42 hostages at a bank in north-western Mexico as negotiations to end the siege took a turn for the worse.

The drama began on Wednesday afternoon when at least six heavily armed gunmen attempted to hold up the bank. In a gunbattle with police four people were killed and at least eight wounded.

Yesterday two or three gunmen ran out of the bank and seized some arms lying in a truck. There was an exchange of gunfire between police and the gunmen but no injuries were reported, said Señor Francisco Labastida Ochoa, the Sinaloa state governor.

One of the gunmen, contacted by phone, said they had merely been trying to leave the bank building with some hostages when police opened fire. The gunmen want an armoured vehicle taken to the local airport.

Academics doubt Bard 'discovery'

Continued from page 1

Shakespeare over the years. Most have fallen by the wayside; they have proved to be false ascriptions, or ascriptions which could not be proven."

Professor Anne Barton, professor of English at Cambridge University, said: "I am very sceptical. This seems to me to be a very long shot."

● WASHINGTON: A prominent Oxford academic's claim that he has found an unpublished verse by Shakespeare was questioned yesterday by officials at the California library where the supposed discovery was made (Christopher Thomas writes).

The 62-line handwritten verse is contained on two scraps of paper pasted into the back cover of a short manuscript by a 17th-century dramatist, John Marston. Much of it is difficult or impossible to read.

Two of the characters are Lady Derby and Lady Huntington. It begins: "As this is endless, endless be your joy;

value the wish but not the wishers... (illegible word, which may be toy);... and for our blessing pray God send you seven and in the end the endless joys of heaven."

"Then let this be all your cross to have... (illegible)... As your loss."

Ms Sue Hodson, associate curator of manuscripts at the Huntington library in San Marino, California, said the second of the two scraps of paper was signed at the end with initials that could either be WSH or WSK. There was no other obvious evidence to suggest it was written by Shakespeare.

She said it appeared that the paper was of the type used in the 17th-century and the handwriting, too, appeared to be from that period. She could not say whether the verse had been published, but it had been studied by many scholars.

It was "definitely a matter of conjecture" whether the verse was by Shakespeare.

Algeria under pressure

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain is to press ahead with efforts to bring international pressure on Algeria by raising its handling of the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking in two international forums next week.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will raise it at a meeting of the EEC foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Tuesday, while a Department of Trade official will bring it up in the International Civil Aviation Association in Montreal the same day.

Both are routine meetings but the Government will use them to assess the strength of international feeling on Algeria's apparent decision to

allow the hijackers to escape prosecution.

The Government's hard-line view is shared by Washington, but the view of the five other Western powers which signed the Bonn Declaration of 1978, the legal basis for a possible embargo, remained unclear. A Japanese source confirmed yesterday that Tokyo, like Britain, was among countries which made representations to Algeria before the deal.

But while Britain is known to have urged Algeria not to make any concessions, the wording of Tokyo's message was much milder. Hijack 'non-persons', page 7

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,650

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS**
- Not against being involved with an opponent (10).
 - Girl the yaras are about (6).
 - Greedy takes the foam from the cask (8).
 - Olive rose late perhaps (8).
 - Pronounced top dog (4).
 - Shrewd firm became agitated (4-6).
 - Like Keats's favourite melodies (7).
 - Wrap up baby son with shuffling gait (7).
 - Censor pornographic writer (4-6).
 - Wiles that give rise to some heart-searching (4).
 - After doing well, a student becomes irregular (8).
 - Hung around to see Italian communist about note (8).
 - Pass drinks in surroundings of case, say (6).
 - Discourage social worker from drug (10).
- DOWN**
- Simpleton's in the soup (6).
 - Tease the fashionable beauty's admirer (8).
 - Proffiter settled fat (10).
 - Not out — gaud, perhaps (7).
 - Steal and get shot (4).
 - Having cut down gradually, in time died an abstainer (8).
 - Sanctity of many a note written in sorrow (10).
 - Sober up, or I may be forced to give tips (10).
 - One way to ensure cleaner play (10).
 - Old Dutch in Bavaria (8).
 - Dull Head's inactivity (8).
 - Sea food recognized by fans (7).
 - Where, in a town, my dear love twice sat down (6).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- CHAETIFEROUS**
- Argumentative
 - Barley-growing
 - Unshaven or shaggy
- GUPPIE**
- An ecological Yuppie
 - A small West Indian fish
 - A Group Therapist
- CHERMANY**
- Cack-handedness
 - Baseball
 - An anti-Arian insult
- MANIPPE**
- Reverse contours
 - A thermalid
 - Premature menopause

Solution to Puzzle No 17,649

Grid solution for puzzle No 17,649 with words filled in.

WEATHER

Cooler conditions expected, particularly in eastern regions with cloud in most areas and outbreaks of rain and drizzle over northern England and much of Scotland. Brightest spots are likely to be south-west England, south Wales and Northern Ireland. North-east Scotland will be cold with wintry showers. Weekend outlook: becoming unsettled with outbreaks of rain, particularly in the south and west.

ABROAD		AROUND BRITAIN	
Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind
Algeria 17-23	W 10-15	London 12-18	W 10-15
Amsterdam 12-18	W 10-15	Manchester 11-17	W 10-15
Paris 14-20	W 10-15	Birmingham 11-17	W 10-15
Brussels 14-20	W 10-15	Cardiff 11-17	W 10-15
Frankfurt 14-20	W 10-15	Edinburgh 11-17	W 10-15
Geneva 14-20	W 10-15	London 12-18	W 10-15
Madrid 14-20	W 10-15	Manchester 11-17	W 10-15
Rome 14-20	W 10-15	Birmingham 11-17	W 10-15
Stockholm 14-20	W 10-15	Cardiff 11-17	W 10-15
Warsaw 14-20	W 10-15	Edinburgh 11-17	W 10-15
Zurich 14-20	W 10-15	London 12-18	W 10-15

HIGH TIDES		THE POUND	
London Bridge 6.20	6.35	Australia \$	2.47
Abbeville 6.45	6.34	Austria Sch	21.00
Amsterdam 6.45	6.34	Belgium F	23.35
Belfast 6.40	6.17	Canada S	2.42
Cardiff 6.20	6.35	Denmark Kr	12.25
Dover 6.20	6.35	France F	11.30
Falmouth 6.40	6.35	Germany DM	3.28
Harwich 6.40	6.35	Italy Lit	2.00
Holyhead 6.40	6.35	Japan Yen	240
London 6.20	6.35	Netherlands Gld	2.20
Liverpool 6.40	6.35	Norway Kr	11.50
London 6.20	6.35	Poland Zlot	2.00
London 6.20	6.35	Spain Ptas	166.64
London 6.20	6.35	Sweden Kr	4.66
London 6.20	6.35	Switzerland Fr	2.20
London 6.20	6.35	USA \$	1.57
London 6.20	6.35	Yugoslavia Dnr	200

Notes: Figures not available. * Denotes figures not available. These are Wednesday's figures.

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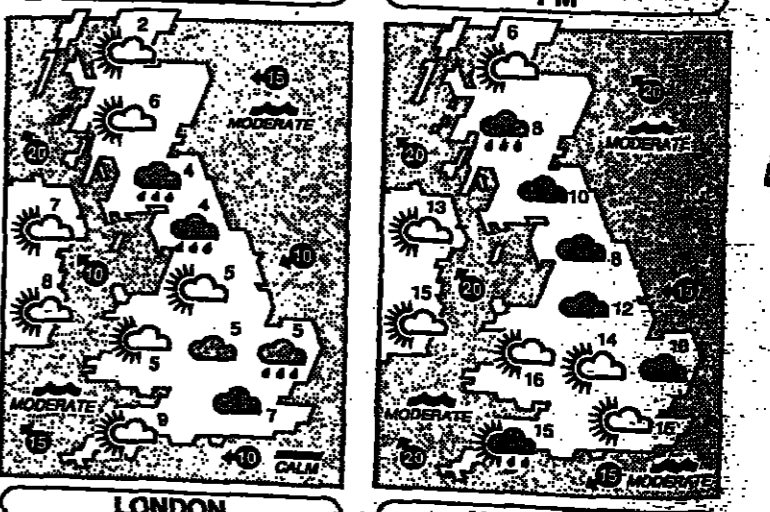
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AM PM



London: Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 17C (62F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm to 6 am, 62 per cent. Wind: 24hr to 6 pm, SW, 24. 1017.5 mbars, steady.

HIGHEST & LOWEST: Wednesday: Highest day temp: London West, 18C (64F); lowest: Lowestoft, 10C (50F). Highest rainfall: Lowestoft, Suffolk, 0.6in; highest sunshine: Newquay, Cornwall, 11.3hr.

Lighting-up time: London 6.30 pm to 6.18 am; Bristol 6.40 pm to 6.17 am; Edinburgh 6.04 pm to 6.17 am; Manchester 6.33 pm to 6.21 am; Newcastle 6.58 pm to 6.49 am.

Manchesters: Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm to 6 am, 62 per cent. Wind: 24hr to 6 pm, SW, 24. 1017.5 mbars, steady.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

£33m tax windfall for Brixton Estate

The changes in capital gains tax announced by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in the Budget have produced a big windfall for Brixton Estate, the property group.

Brixton Estate yesterday announced a sharp jump in pretax profits for last year, from £10.7 million to £13.2 million.

Maxwell in £5.8m deal

United Trade Press, part of Maxwell Communication Corporation, is paying £5.8 million for a 90 per cent stake in Patey Doyle (Publishing), a producer of 11 business and professional magazines.

Kalamazoo in profit

Kalamazoo, the business systems group, has declared a pretax profit of £284,000 for the six months to end-January, against the £576,000 loss of a year ago.

AAH sells DIY chain

AAH, the fuel distributor and pharmaceuticals supplier, has sold Focus Homecentres, its do-it-yourself retailing operation, to Choice DIY, a small private company based in Birmingham.

The Focus Homecentres chain, which ranges from Exeter in the south west to Ashington in Northumberland, is peripheral to AAH's core distribution activities, the group said.

Telford move hits Epwin

Epwin Group, Devon's pre window manufacturer, which raised £2.5 million through its USM flotation a year ago to help pay for its new Telford plant, found the Telford move holding back profits in 1987.

CH arranges £30m facility

CH Industrials, the acquisitive chemicals and engineering group, has arranged a five-year, £30 million multiple option facility with its relationship banks. The facility was twice oversubscribed.

US unaware of 1992

Nearly four out of five influential Americans are unaware of EEC plans to eliminate trade barriers by 1992, according to a survey released this week.

The survey also found that 95 per cent of those polled think it likely American companies will intensify European marketing efforts in the next four years.

Inchcape's B-team surges ahead

It is ironic that Inchcape experienced the strongest profits growth and margin improvement last year from the five of its 10 core divisions designated as less worthy of investment.

These profits grew by 18 per cent while operating margins widened from 6.1 per cent to 8.2 per cent. This compares with 8 per cent profits growth from companies in the "A" team where margins fell from 6.9 per cent to 6.4 per cent.

Indeed, perhaps the purpose of classifying the group's 10 core activities into "A" and "B" streams had more to do with motivating management than predicting future growth.

The trend may continue this year as the outlook for fast-stream insurance services remains difficult.

While vehicle activities will continue to make steady progress, the other fast-track businesses - business machines, inspection and testing and buying services - remain small.

Thus 1988 could see another strong showing from marketing and distribution which contributes 15 per cent of operating profits. Nor should the outlook for commodity businesses deteriorate further.

Tighter financial controls and a more sophisticated treasury function are reaping rewards. Although Inchcape has had to learn to live with

currency movements, the £16 million shortfall at the pretax profits level last year - a significant deterioration on the 1986 figure - was offset by £3.5 million of gains.

Gearing has fallen from 70 per cent to 39 per cent of shareholders' funds and the return on average capital employed rose from 21.2 per cent to 29 per cent.

With a strong balance sheet, acquisitions will be easily accommodated although they are unlikely to be of significant size.

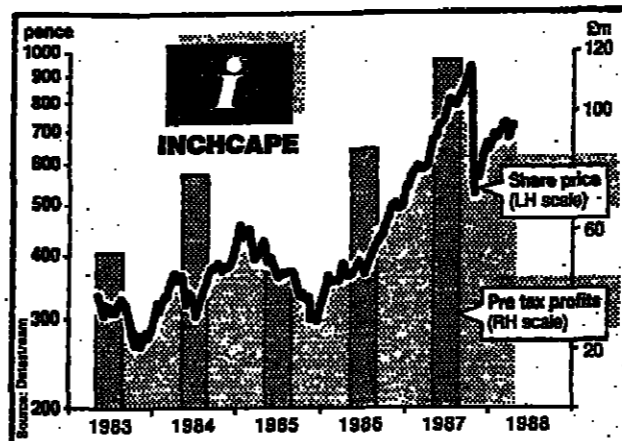
Inchcape has started the year well and is in confident mood. The sceptics may now be more attracted by an historic p/e ratio of 10 times falling to 8.5 times 1988 earnings. This is based on a pretax profits forecast of £130 million.

The shares are one of the traders' favourites especially in the results season, so the stock may now be in for a quieter time. But it is worth noting that the quality of earnings is still improving.

Etam

By now, shareholders in Etam must be wondering why they stumped up £33.7 million in last July's placing, hours before the market peaked.

True, the group had capital expenditure of £14 million last year. It also made two acquisitions, Snob and Peter



Brown, for £12 million of which £5.4 million was in cash. And it paid off £2 million of debt in Peter Brown.

But this expansion has been predominately self-financing, enabling the group to end the year with £30 million of its cash intact.

This year's capital expenditure plans are more ambitious than last year's. A planned 25 per cent increase in selling space will cost no less than £20 million. But, once more, this highly cash-generative business will be able to fund most of this internally, leaving £25 million in the kitty.

Nor is the money needed for acquisitions, for Etam denies any predatory ambitions. Indeed, last year's purchases of Peter Brown and Snob were something of a departure for

this conservatively managed company, although the territory was hardly unfamiliar.

Still aiming undeviatingly at the C2, D and E social groups, Peter Brown is targeted at Miss Etam's brother, the 20 to 30-year-old, fashion-conscious male. Snob is her late-teenage younger sister, filling the age gap between Tammy - for seven to 13-year-olds - and Etam.

The group has not started thinking in terms of opening multi-image stores, designed to appeal to three or four of its target markets. Whether this will work or not remains to be seen, but the six planned for this year hardly constitute a high risk development. Etam and Tammy have successfully co-existed within single shops for years.

Meanwhile, the group is busy integrating its ac-

quisitions by refining and improving the merchandise. As a result, Peter Brown has returned to profitability, while Snob's losses have been significantly reduced.

This year it could be hard for Etam to repeat the astonishing 20 per cent volume increase through its established stores. Nevertheless, pretax profits should grow by 25 per cent to £22.5 million. The prospective multiple of 12.3 leaves the shares at an undesired 5 per cent discount to the market.

But with profits and earnings growing at this rate, why does it need all this cash?

Hestair

American presidential candidates are not the only ones with their eyes on Washington. Hestair, in another expansion of its United States employment interests, is taking over Goodfriend in America's administrative capital in a move which will further underpin its overseas earnings.

The latest deal - coming with profits of Hestair for the year ended January 31, which at £13.3 million, against £7.3 million, were above expectations - helps set the tone for what promises to be another good year.

Hestair is already Britain's largest dust cart maker and after seven lean years is begin-

ning to make firm progress with its engineering interests, thanks to healthier profits from coach and bus activities. Engineering pretax profits rose from £1.8 million to £3.4 million.

But if the service division makes the headlines and the bulk of the profits, it would be wrong to overlook the consumer products division. At present, the base is centred on stationery and toys and collectively their profits advanced from £2.97 million to £3.48 million, the eighth successive year of progress.

Before too long - and with the help of a significant acquisition - sales from consumer product activities might well be jumping from £40 million to the £150 million mark.

The ongoing success of recently acquired businesses means that there is additional deferred consideration to be paid. In the case of the service companies, the additional payments are being satisfied by more shares, though with cash balances reasonably healthy, Hestair from here on has a choice of whether to fund further deals with money.

At 297p, the shares are on a prospective rating of 8.9. Ahead of further developments and organic growth, they are worth picking up.

Programme pays off as Low beats half-time predictions

By Martin Waller

Wm Low & Company, the Dundee independent supermarket chain, yesterday produced forecast-beating figures for the first half to March 19, thanks to the group's development programme.

Pretax profits were up 33 per cent to £4.57 million. At the operating level, profits rose to £5.62 million from £4.06 million, lifting margins from 3.09 per cent to 4.06 per cent.

Analysts had been looking for pretax profits not much in excess of £4 million, and the shares surged ahead 20p to 585p on the stock market. The half-way dividend is raised by 0.5p to 5.5p.

Mr James Millar, the

managing director, said: "More of our business is now coming from the larger stores, and we've cleaned out the worst of the performers."

Sales grew by 10.5 per cent, allowing for 2.5 per cent inflation and for disposals, of which 8 per cent came from new store openings and the rest from higher sales at existing stores.

The recent convertible preference shares issue aroused criticism in some quarters as a possible "poison pill" - Low has long been considered a likely bid target - but it had the effect of wiping out borrowings.

"We have a very active development programme, and

we can keep going for several years without seeing the balance sheet getting stretched again," said Mr Millar.

"We want to develop at a rate faster than the generation of internal cash flow."

Four openings have taken place since September, with two more to follow before the year-end, along with an extension to the store at Blairgowrie, Tayside. By then the group will be trading from 720,000 square feet.

Professor Christopher Blake, the chairman, reported: "Current performance gives us good grounds for looking forward to another satisfactory full year's result."

Triplex Lloyd spends £2.5m on new process

By Alison Eadie

Triplex Lloyd, the engineering, building components and services group, is investing £2.5 million in new casting technology.

The aluminium division of Triplex Lloyd will be moved to a new site and the high technology precision casting process developed by Triplex Lloyd will be brought to full production.

Mr John Sharp, technical director of Triplex Lloyd, said aluminium was the metal of the future for the motor industry, and in sharpening the technology, the company was securing a stronger market position in Britain and overseas.

\$1.3bn Tate offer rejected by Staley

Rolling Meadows, Illinois (AP) - Staley Continental, the United States maize processor, has rejected the unsolicited \$1.33 billion (£686 million) takeover bid by Tate & Lyle, the British sugar refiner.

Describing the offer as "inadequate," Staley's board recommended that the company's shareholders should not tender their shares to Tate & Lyle, which is offering to buy them for \$32 each.

Mr Donald Nordlund, the chairman of Staley, said the company's board of directors had instructed the manage-

ment to explore alternative courses of action to enhance shareholder values.

He said alternatives could include a financial restructuring or recapitalization of the company, the sale of equity in other securities to a third party, the sale of all or part of the company, a joint venture or a leveraged buyout.

Tate & Lyle already owns 5 per cent of Staley. The acquisition would give the company a foothold in the US corn sweetener market and make it the only supplier of all three types of sugar - corn, beet and cane - in the United States.

Stock Market report 30

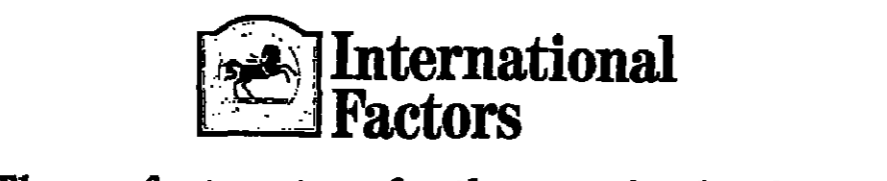


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Tourist spending helps boost Liberty to £5.8m

By Alexandra Jackson

The return of the tourist to its famous Regent Street store helped Liberty increase pretax profits from £3.9 million to £5.8 million in the year to end-January.

However, the present year, while ahead of last year, is running below budget, according to Mr Harold Weblin, the chairman and chief executive.

Pretax profits benefited from the inclusion of a rate rebate worth £501,000. Earnings per share, including this exceptional credit, rose from 35.2p to 53.3p or to 48.1p without the credit. A final dividend of 8p was declared, making a total of 10.6p for the year (9p).

The strongest growth came from the group's converting and wholesaling activities, where trading profits rose from £1.9 million to £2.8 million. The introduction of several new licensing arrangements, primarily in America,

accounted for up to 40 per cent of the advance.

Liberty opened one new store in Britain last year and enlarged two. It now has 13 shops, excluding its Regent Street flagship, after the opening of a new store in Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey. There are plans to open a further three during the course of the year.

Plans to relocate the group's four US stores to larger premises should improve profitability as it will then be possible to stock a wider range of goods.

Last year US retailing sales fell from £1.3 million to £1.2 million while a trading loss of £119,000 was sustained, much the same as the year before.

In the Netherlands, management changes have done little to improve profitability as losses increased from £149,000 to £504,000. However, the group remains committed to this market.

Air safety fears could slow 1992 campaign in aviation

From Richard Owen Brussels

Senior officials of the European Economic Community are calling for further moves to "bust open" airline monopolies and bring in cheap air fares in Europe by 1992 as part of the drive to create a single European market.

But they give warning that fears over air safety as Europe's skies became more crowded could slow down the 1992 campaign in aviation and that US-style deregulation would lead to congestion at airports and unacceptable stress on air traffic controllers, with a further rise in near-misses.

Mr Stanley Davis, Commissioner for Transport, said the European Commission was already concerned by near-misses over densely populated parts of Europe, including several recent incidents over Britain.

He said the Commission would shortly present proposals for common EEC rules on air safety and air traffic control, together with new initiatives on harmonizing aircrew qualifications and airworthiness.

Officials said the EEC would also adopt a code of conduct by 1992 to govern computerized reservation and ticketing systems.

There was a danger that



Warning voice: Peter Sutherland, competition commissioner

overcrowding of airports and airspace would obstruct EEC moves to encourage more competition, officials said.

Addressing a conference organized by Air Europe and the EEC air travellers lobby, Mr Davis said the agreement reached by transport ministers in December showed that "cosy arrangements" between airlines over routes and fares had lost their hold. But the December package, reached after Britain and Spain had resolved a disagreement over

the status of Gibraltar airport, was only "the first step".

Mr Peter Sutherland, the Commissioner for Competition, gave warning that unless air transport was planned at a European level, many of the opportunities of the single market would be lost. The 1992 goal — the free movement of people, services and goods across frontiers — depended on efficient and cheap air transport.

The December package provided for discount and deep

discount fares, the gradual dismantling of 50-50 capacity sharing deals on routes, and greater access to the market by smaller airlines. Air Europe, formerly a charter company, this week took advantage of the deal by launching a no-strings low-cost service between Gatwick and Brussels.

A senior EEC transport official, Mr Frederick Sorensen, said even the most ardent supporters of deregulation in the United States were becoming more circumspect. The EEC's aim was free competition, with carriers able to operate from airports in one member state to airports in any other member state.

Mr Peter Smith, of International Leisure Group, which owns Air Europe, said that large airlines were linked with airports, hotels, communications and travel agents, thus inhibiting competition.

Asked whether companies were themselves holding back lower air fares by paying artificially high prices for business travel, Mr Smith said that once the market was thrown open companies would go for the lowest possible cost that was compatible with comfort and safety.

The scheduled fare between London and Munich was £400 return, but Air Europe was challenging Lufthansa by offering the route for less than £200.

WALL STREET

Dow rises by 17 points in opening dealings

New York (Reuter) — Bargain-hunting, following three days of declines, pushed shares higher in early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 17 points to 2,002.41. Rising shares outnumbered declining ones by two to one. Quantum Chemical rose by 1 to 90.

● Hong Kong — Prices closed weaker but off their lows in fairly quiet trading. The Hang Seng index lost 25.73 points to end the day at 2,552.71.

● Tokyo — Shares closed easier after an overnight drop on Wall Street and because of the absence of fresh, positive factors, while some profit-taking was seen after Wednesday's gains. The Nikkei Dow index lost 35.93 points to 26,828.16.

● Singapore — Prices closed narrowly mixed after selected bargain-hunting alternated with bouts of profit-taking in lethargic trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 6.01 points to 944.49.

Table with multiple columns listing stock prices and indices for various markets including NY, Tokyo, and Singapore.

Ropner 'disappointing'

Ropner, the industrial holding company with interests in insurance broking, engineering, garden products, property and shipping, made pretax profits in the year to the end of December of £4.1 million, (£5.6 million).

The company said the results were disappointing, given

the improved performances by four of the five divisions.

Airtel is continuing to give cause for concern, despite "strong measures" taken to rectify the situation, the company added. The total dividend was 7p (6.5p).

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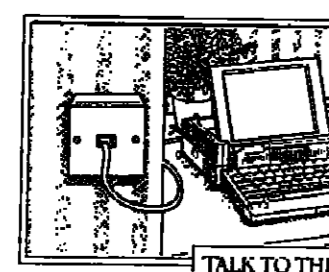


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PPC ORGANIZER SOFTWARE: Every PPC comes with PPC Organizer software which not only provides Word processing, Card Index and Calculator programs, but also a diary and address and telephone directory. An essential tool for the executive on the move.

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This is a problem our designers quickly identified. And soon solved. The Amstrad PPC will give you more of what you expect from your office PC in a compact and highly transportable format. You only need to check the major features listed above to see what a sophisticated machine it is. There is in fact a range of Amstrad PPCs, all at unbeatably competitive prices. And all come with PPC Organizer software. (Those at the top of the range with the built-in telephone modem also come with a

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Advertisement for Durmech, featuring the text 'Are Proud to Receive The Queen's Award for Export Achievement DURMECH ENGINEERING LIMITED' and contact information.

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مكزامن الأصيل

STREET
by 17 points
g dealings

● Tokyo - Shares closed...
● Singapore - Prices closed...

CANADIAN PRICES

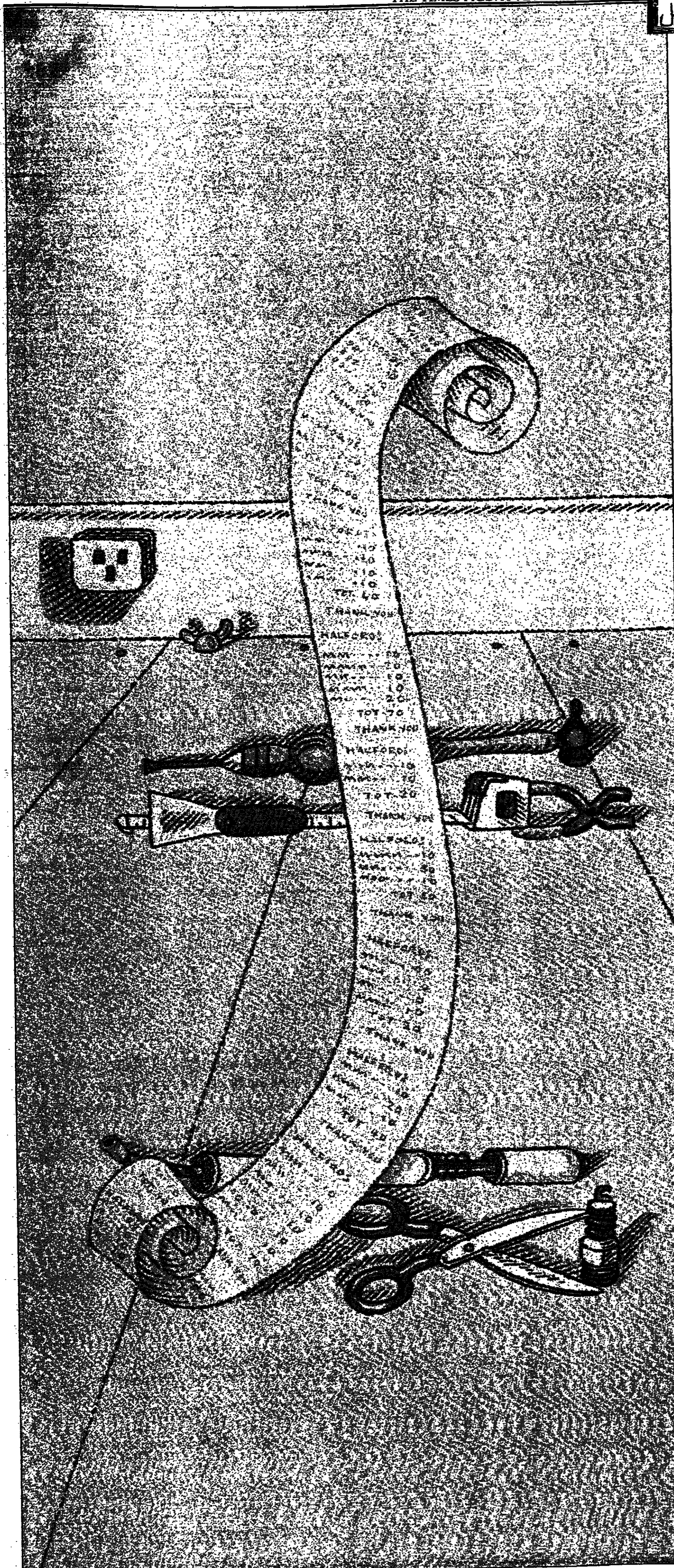
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ADIN
PAIN RELIEF

ven formula

Durmed
to Receive The Queen's
Expert Achievement
CH ENGINEERING
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ANOTHER
RECORD YEAR
FOR
WARD WHITE.

TURNOVER

£755 MILLION UP 35%

PRE-TAX PROFIT

£65.5 MILLION UP 59%

EARNINGS PER
ORDINARY SHARE

30.8p UP 29%

DIVIDENDS PER
ORDINARY SHARE

8.75p UP 17%

HALFORDS
PAYLESS DIY WHITLOCK

WARD WHITE 
THE BUSINESS OF GROWTH

The Directors of Ward White Group plc are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief the Directors (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) such information is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

This advertisement is issued by Country NatWest Limited on behalf of Ward White Group plc.

Jacques Vert fashions run up 28% profits rise

By Allison Eadie
Jacques Vert, the women's fashion house quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, boosted its pretax profits in the year to January 19 by 28.8 per cent, to £4 million, on turnover 45.5 per cent higher at £23.4 million.

Exports rose by 105 per cent, to £2.94 million, with strong growth in Canada and the United States despite the strength of the pound. North American exports increased to £1.5 million, from £640,000, and European exports rose from £115,000 to £748,000.

Mr Jack Cynamon, the joint chairman, said that sales of this year's autumn range to North America had virtually doubled from the previous year.

British sales were helped by the opening of new Jacques Vert shops, bringing the total number to 11, against eight a year ago. Seven more shops are expected to open this financial year.

Capital expenditure last year was £1.6 million, and is expected to be lower this year. A third factory in Durham was acquired last year.

The company said it had had a successful spring, and autumn order books were at record levels. The final dividend was increased to 8.5p from 7p. There was no interim dividend.



Ready-to-wear success: Alan Green (left) and Jack Cynamon of Jacques Vert, yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

BA chief joins GrandMet board

Sir Colin Marshall, the chief executive of British Airways, is joining the main board of Grand Metropolitan, the drinks-to-hotels group, as a non-executive director.

He joins other leading figures such as Sir John Harvey-Jones, the deputy chairman,

and Mr Richard Giordano, who is chairman and chief executive of the BOC Group. Mr David Tegg, who has been running the group services activities, is also appointed to the main board.

Mr Allen Sheppard, the chairman and chief executive,

said: "Grand Metropolitan has one of the strongest teams of non-executive directors in Britain. This ensures a proper check and balance within the board and also gives the executive board the benefit of the experience and judgement of leading British and American businessmen."

Shares ignore lending gloom

An early, strong gain on Wall Street helped the London equity market to shrug off the disappointing bank lending figures for March which effectively quashed hopes for a further reduction in clearing bank base lending rates soon.

The volume of business again left a lot to be desired and was generally confined to takeover situations, either actual or talked of. Most fund managers were again reluctant to commit fresh funds on the penultimate day of the account and, for long periods of the day, prices were left in limbo.

The worse-than-expected money statistics did raise a few eye-brows, but brought little selling pressure to the market, although most dealers did mark prices lower as a precaution.

However, the sight of Wall Street rising above the 2,000 level in the first hour or so of trading induced some renewed demand and share prices closed at, or near, their best levels of the day.

The FT-SE 100 index recovered a mid-morning decline of 8.5 points to finish the day 5.1 points higher at 1,791.9, while the FT 30 share index ended 4.0 points to the good at 1,423.4.

As the prospect of another cut in interest rates faded, gilt-edged stocks drifted down to close with falls ranging to 2/4.

Recal, the electronics group, the subject of an investment recommendation from Merrill Lynch, the US securities house, jumped 10p to 243p on vague speculation that Cable and Wireless is on the verge of launching a bid for the company.

RTZ, the mining finance house, responded to a positive meeting with brokers on Wednesday night with a rise of 16p to 366p. Mr Derek Birkin, the chief executive, addressed

an in-house meeting of brokers at Kleinwort Grieveson and clearly made a favourable impression.

He intends to shed the group's dull image by improving investor relations. Several presentations have already been arranged with other London brokers and the group is planning to meet fund managers in both Tokyo and New York. The meeting reaffirmed Kleinwort's bullish stance. It remains a big fan of RTZ and expects net income in 1988 to grow from £280 million to £360 million.

Kleinwort expects RTZ's new high profile to quickly filter through to the share price.

George Wimpey, the housebuilding, construction and property group, was again revived, climbing 9p to 257p, as 4.3 million shares changed hands.

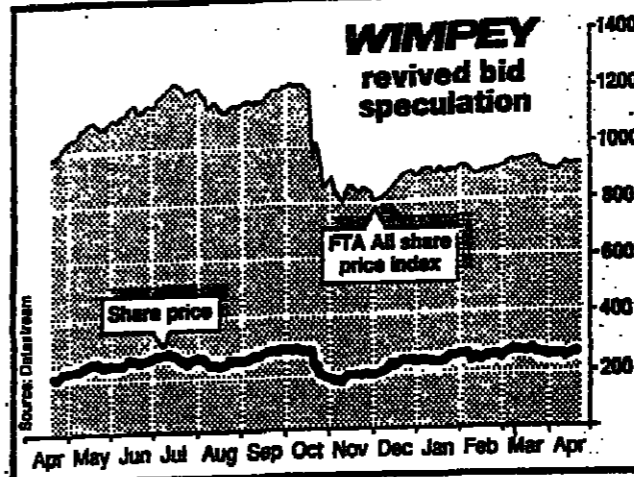
Demand was fuelled by renewed talk that the Grove Charity Management, after

That old takeover favourite, Vaux, the brewery group based in the North-east, extended this week's strong run with a 24p rise to 569p, reviving bid hopes. But it appears that the reason for the flurry is that one market-maker has got into a pickle after finding himself short of stock.

lengthy negotiations, is now said to be on the verge of selling its 35 per cent stake in the company - which stems from the shareholding of the founding Mitchell family - to a predator.

Beazer Group, Mr Brian Beazer's housebuilding and construction concern, which emerged as the holder of an 11.5 per cent shareholding in Wimpey earlier this year, was immediately named as a possible bidder.

STOCK MARKET



But most dealers were inclined to think that a bid for Wimpey would be more likely to come from Taylor Woodrow, the rival contracting group, which is keen to get its hands on its considerable property assets.

Two newcomers to the Unlisted Securities Market made satisfactory debuts.

Dudley Jenkins, the mailing list broker, opened at 83p compared with the placing price of 85p, but then raced away to touch 109p before closing at 103p, an opening premium of 18p. The placing was organized by Henry Cooke, Lumsden, the Manchester-based broker.

Handley Walker, the management consultant, placed at 125p by McCaughan Dyson Capel Cure Myers, the broker, opened at that level and improved steadily to close with a premium of 13p at 138p.

Speculators were nursing burnt fingers yesterday when the talked-of dawn raid on Storehouse, the British Home Stores and Habitat-Mothercare retailing group, failed to materialize.

The shares of Sir Terence Conran's group soared to 300p in hectic, late trading on

Wednesday amid intense speculation that at least two consortiums were putting together a bid. The names of Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher and Dr Ashraf Marwan, the Egyptian financier, have both been mentioned. The Take-over Panel is said to rule out the prospect of either Dr Marwan or Mountleigh,

McCaughan Dyson Capel Cure, the broker, rates Laird Group as a strong buy after launching with the company. The broker believes that the group will easily lift pretax profits from £32.6 million to £40 million this year and has already pencilled in £45 million for 1989.

which was keen to make a bid last year, making another move.

Now the speculation has moved to the Far East with Hong Kong Wharf, the cash-rich, Far Eastern property group, headed by Sir YK Pao, said to be among the number of contenders for Storehouse.

But the absence of likely bidders saw the Storehouse share price react to close 15p down at 285p on a turnover of 10 million shares.

Dealers claim that there is no smoke without fire and still believe that a bid is on the way - but not before Sir Terence reveals the group's results at the beginning of June.

Analysts remain worried about Mothercare, which they regard as the biggest drain on profits. Mr Zak Keshavjee, an analyst at SBCI Savory Millin, the broker, forecasts a drop in pretax profits from last year's £123.1 million to £113 million.

Sears, the Selfridges, Freemans and Saxon's group, also came into the picture as dealers took the view that if a bid does materialize for Storehouse, Sears will be the next one to go.

The shares attracted lots of attention and touched 135p before closing unaltered at 134p on a turnover of nearly 3 million shares.

One dealer remarked that: "The market has neglected Sears of late and seems to have forgotten that the Al-Fayeds hold an intriguing 10 per cent stake in the company and are hell-bent on getting their hands on Selfridges."

Sears reports figures on May 10 and analysts are forecasting pretax profits of about £235 million, against £211.7 million.

Still in the stores sector, Boots, the chemist, rose by 4p to 226p as dealers began to take the view that the shares were due for a re-rating.

Boots announced yesterday that it is teaming up with Hoechst, the West German pharmaceuticals group, to produce and market Ibuprofen, the painkilling drug, in the US. A market which, Boots believes, has expanded by about 25 per cent in the last two years.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

55% PROFIT GROWTH

RESULTS for the year ended 31 December

	1987	1986	INCREASE
Profit before tax	£4.81m	£3.11m	55%
Group turnover	£53.91m	£41.12m	31%
Earnings per share	26.85p	18.90p	42%
Dividends	8.25p	6.50p	27%
Bonus share issue	One for five		

Prospects for 1988 Excellent opportunities for further expansion. Profits will advance substantially in our centenary year.

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Brixton Estate

International investors in commercial property

ANNUAL RESULTS 1987

	1987	1986
	£'000	£'000
Net Rental Income	25,419	22,850
Profit before Taxation	13,204	10,764
Earnings per Share	11.94p	9.79p
Value of Investment Properties	£414 million	£344 million
Net Asset Value	£249 million	£185 million

- 11.2% increase in net rental income.
- 22.7% increase in profit before tax.
- 34.2% increase in net asset value.
- Final dividend of 4.80p per Ordinary Share proposed, making a total dividend for the year of 7.80p per share - an increase of 20.0%.
- Valuation surplus on completed and let properties - £61.7 million.

The above figures constitute an abridged version of the year's results. The full accounts which will be posted to shareholders on 20th May 1988 have not yet been reported on by the Auditors. They will be filed with the Registrar of Companies following the Annual General Meeting to be held on 22nd June 1988.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
April 29	April 29	July 22	July 22
Call options were taken out on: 21/4/88 British Cigarette, Norfolk Capital, PLM, Kentish Dairy, Contract Securities, Smith & Nephew, North Kent Mine, Explosives, BOAS, Penta Estates, Cons Term, Amber Day, Astra Holdings, Electronic Machine, Edin. Financial, True View, Puma & Caltex BP ppd, Sico.			

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Company	Price
AMH Healthcare (215p)	265-6	Resort Hotels (14p)	17 1/2
Anglo C&I	182-2	Shareholders Am Inc	74
Archor (AJ) (130p)	160+1	Shafsbury (180p)	155
Assoc Nursing	136	Sharnik McEwan (650p)	835
Auhart Ass (85p)	101	Shorro	134
AWD (50p)	94		
Bnt Pet P/P	77 1/2+2	TGI (130p)	135+2
Central Motor (80p)	95-1	Thorn Hops (80p)	85
		Total Systems	85
Dudley Jenkins (85p)	106	UK Paper (135p)	141+1
Freeman Gp	220	Vesper Thorny (160p)	180
Gardiner DC	151-1		
Handley Walker	138		
Holders Tech (140p)	141+1		
Hughes (HT)	76-1		
ISA Int (50p)	70-1		
Inshops (50p)	81		
Lon Forsting (160p)	160+1		
MTL Inst New	75+1		
Merc Mairi New	83-1		
Morris Ashby (80p)	93-2		
Norfolk House (100p)	106+1		
Pennine Optical	49		
Paion	118-1		
Reliable Props	£15-1/2		

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Call	Put	Series	Call	Put
Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct
Alic Lyon	360 57 67	7 10	Glaxo	950 80 87	113 35 50
(410)	390 37 47	17 21	(730)	1000 80 73	88 90 80
Bass	420 19 30	40 28 35 38	1050 19 53	98 105 10	
(840)	850 43 60	75 40 55 55	1100 9 39	50 140 140 63	
Biff Air	900 22 42	50 77 82 87	(128)	130 50 10	14 17 10 12
(162)	140 26 32	12 7 8	140 2 2 4	85 147 18 18	
Biff Com	180 4 12	27 28 30	London	460 28 45	55 20 30 35
(280)	300 18 25	18 22 25	(478)	550 14 22	85 95 99
Biff Gas	170 18 21	5 8 10	London	280 11 19	25 4 16 19
(178)	180 14 15	2 5 8 10	(238)	240 11 19	25 4 16 19
BP	240 41 47	4 8	Midland	320 42 52	80 7 15 18
(272)	260 28 33	40 9 15 19	(386)	380 18 30	37 20 30 30
British	420 7 7	2 2 2 2	Shell	140 4 15	11 13 15 18
(134)	500 35 45	8 15 15	Shell	120 17 20	23 3 5 8 8
Com Gold	850 105 140	42 70 110	Tesco	140 20 25	28 3 3 8 8
(853)	950 85 110	130 120 110	(133)	140 4 15	11 13 15 18
Courtauld	300 80 87	55 7 10	Thorn EM	500 130 140	2 17 27
(332)	360 20 33	48 30 37 42	(119)	600 42 88	75 15 30 45
Com Union	300 45 50	53 7 13 17	TIFF	550 20 22	24 4 10 12
(330)	330 27 32	35 19 27 30	(234)	340 9 18	22 14 22 20
C & W	300 13 15	24 24 25	Unilever	460 20 42	22 23 23 28
(318)	330 18 28	37 32 37 42	(454)	500 11 19	25 56 62 62
GECC	140 18 21	26 4 8 10	Wellcome	420 57 80	60 10 25 33
(151)	180 17 20	14 18 20 22	(746)	500 16 40	65 50 65 68
GRV	200 34 38	42 9 14 20			
(237)	330 8 17	22 32 42 50			
Grand Met	360 3 7	7 11			
(472)	460 40 52	63 18 27 35			
ICI	850 85 104	120 37 57 67			
(378)	1050 38 45	82 85			
Jaguar	280 21 30	40 19 28 30			
(275)	360 35 42	50 10 15 20			
Land Sec	300 75 88	98 13 17			
(367)	360 40 52	63 23 28 33 38			
M & S	180 25 29	38 14 6 7			
(181)	200 5 9	13 25 26 29			
R-Royce	110 10 15	17 10 12			
(112)	120 3 8	12 13 15 18			
STC	220 31 39	45 11 13			
(242)	240 10 15	18 21			
Savory	280 10 17	25 23 30 32			
(239)	320 27 32	36 6 7 12			
Shell	260 6 11	13 26 30 34			
(1058)	1000 100 120	145 25 45 53			
Shorston	1100 45 70	85 73 90 100			
(285)	230 73 77	7 9 9			
Transferor	320 32 38	45 27 33 37			
(328)	330 14 27	32 18 27 33			
TSE	100 8 10	15 15			
(101)	110 4 5	8 12 14 18			
Woolworth	280 25 30	35 20 27 30			
(286)	300 13 22	25 30 40 40			
Amsted	140 25 32	34 47 8 9			
(158)	160 11 20	22 11 15 18			
Berleys	160 4 12	13 14 27 28			
(433)	460 10 22	30 35 42 52			
Beecham	500 25 11	18 70 89 82			
(462)	520 28 35	45 14 20 25			
Boots	200 30 35	39 3 7 9			
(228)	220 18 21	28 15 19			
BTR	240 19 27	32 9 15 18			
(247)	260 7 12	20 28 30			
Blue Cinc	420 38 45	55 15 27 35			
(437)	460 12 23	35 40 50 58			
Diason	160 28 32	3 5 8 8			
(180)	180 13 19	24 10 12			
	200 5 10	14 28 30			

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 498	Costs 757	Laporte 453	Royal Int 743
Abbey 2,370	LAG 1,659	L&G 1,903	Sandhill 985
AB-Lycors 1,964	Cons Gold 624	Lloyds 2,122	Satchell 471
Amsted 440	Cookson 78	Lorho 1,670	Scott & N 2,065
ASDA 1,955	Courtauld 1,205	Lucas 638	Sears 2,680
AB Foods 808	Dalgely 55	Magnet 2,280	Sedgwick 1,432
Anglo 783	Dea 3,854	M&S 1,918	Shell 782
ASDA 3,268	Diason 736	M&M 219	Smith & N 1,737
BET 296	ECC 953	MEPC 246	SMITH WH 438
BTR 2,328	Enterprise 1,364	Metal Box 1,381	STC 485
BAT 602	Ferranti 5,032	Midland 2,451	Stan Chart 609
Berleys 2,985	Fleura 1,000		

Loom

Dealers claim that there is no smoke without fire and say they believe that a bid is on the way — but not before Sir James reveals the group's results at the beginning of June.

Analysts remain worried about Mothercare, which they regard as the biggest drain on profits. Mr Zak Kashyap, an analyst at SBCI Savory White, the broker, forecasts a drop in profit from last year's £12.1 million to £11 million.

Sears, the Selfridges, Frimons and Sainsbury group, also came into the picture as dealers took the view that it did not matter how big the bid. Sears will be the next one to go.

The shares attracted lots of attention and touched 150 before closing unaltered. There was a turnover of nearly 1 million shares.

One dealer remarked that the market has neglected Sears of late and seems to have forgotten that the Al-Ford bid at merging 10 per cent of the company and are dependent on getting their hands on Selfridges.

Share reports figures on May 12 and analysts are forecasting profits of about £20 million against £21.7 million.

Shares in the stores sector, says the chemist, rose by 40 to 50p as dealers began to use the view that the stores were due for a re-rating.

Boots announced yesterday that it is teaming up with Hibernia, the West German pharmaceutical group, to produce and market pantliners in the U.S. A market which Boots believes has expanded by about 25 per cent over the last two years.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

Acquisitive Epicure lifts profit to £1.26m

By Joe Joseph

Epicure, the Swedish-controlled construction and engineering group, lifted pretax profits from £712,000 to £1.26 million in 1987, helped by acquisitions in Britain and Sweden over the past year.

More are under negotiation, to be financed by the sale of development land and surplus properties. The £2.8 million raised in last May's rights issue has been used to finance last year's acquisitions and reduce gearing.

The latest results have been merger-accounted to include figures for Standard Piston Ring, the marine piston ring maker acquired in September. SBCI's results have been consolidated as if the companies had been combined throughout last year.

Epicure's engineering sector accounted for 70 per cent of last year's £34 million turnover. The painting and specialist civil engineering companies have recovered after a poor start to the year.

Earnings per share grew from 1.85p to 2.76p and a final dividend of 0.5p makes 0.75p for the year, up from 0.30p.

Johnston Press to expand in South-east after float

By Martin Waller

Johnston Press, based in Edinburgh, is promising an assault on the "soft underbelly" of the local newspaper industry in the prosperous South-east. The company, which owns 29 paid-for weekly papers nationwide and 21 freesheets, is coming to the stock market via a placing by Hill Samuel.

Johnston is keen to expand further after its entry into the South with the purchase last month of the West Sussex County Times Group for £3.8 million. Its latest purchase, however, was the *Chesterfield Gazette* this month for £350,000.

"We've only scratched the surface. There's a very wide and expanding market out there," Mr Iain Bell, the managing director, said yesterday.

Mr Fred Johnston, the chairman, added: "There are a number of companies we have been chatting up. They are aware of our interest in them." The group is not, however, involved in any negotiations at present.

The company was founded in 1767 by Mr Johnston's great-great-grandfather. It estimates its share of the weekly paid-for market at about 5.4 per cent and that of the freesheets at 2 per cent.



Looking out for acquisitions: Marco Chiappelli (left), Fred Johnston (centre) and Iain Bell

Pretax profits increased from £938,000 in 1983 to £3.03 million last year, with seven acquisitions over that period.

Mr Marco Chiappelli, the finance director, said gearing, which has soared from its year-end level of 50 per cent after the two acquisitions, will fall to 25 per cent once the listing is completed.

Hill Samuel is placing 6.11 million shares at 122p each, valuing the group at £29 million. Four million new shares are included, with the balance being sold by the existing shareholders who are members of the Johnston family.

But the chairman, his two brothers and their immediate family interests, holding 14.03 million shares, are not selling. They will control 59 per cent of the company after the placing.

Dealings are expected to start next Friday.

The placing price represents a price earnings multiple of 13.2 times, based on 1987 profits and an actual tax charge of 36.4 per cent.

China firm bought for £2.8m

By Robert Rodwell

Powerscreen International, the Northern Irish manufacturer of quarrying equipment, has announced the purchase of one of Ulster's best-known exporters.

Powerscreen, which acquired control of British Benzol, its parent, in a reverse takeover nearly two years ago, has paid £2.8 million for the whole share capital of Belleek Pottery, the County Fermanagh village company which has been manufacturing the Parian range of translucent china for more than 150 years.

Belleek, which employs 140 people, can now expect a period of sustained, financially sound growth, Mr Pat Dougan, the chief executive of Powerscreen, said.

The pottery was purchased from Mr Roger Troughton, the majority owner, and Allied Irish Banks, which owned a 30 per cent stake.

Powerscreen, an international leader in stone-screening equipment which exports to 70 countries, was established more than 20 years ago.

The Dungannon company has an annual turnover of £50 million and expects to register a record profit this year of about £11 million.

Research chief attacks 'illogical' retail takeovers

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Some takeovers in the retail sector lack logic and do little for trade or customers, the chairman of a leading market research group said yesterday.

Opening a conference on "Successful Strategies in Retailing" in London, Mr Richard Eassie, of Verdict Research, said although some takeovers had been undoubted successes, including Raters which has modernized the jewellery trade and Dixons' development of Currys, others were less successful.

"There is much less to be said for mergers such as that of Asda and MFI and for the building up of conglomerates which lack retailing logic," he said.

Mr Eassie also criticized modern retailers for taking decisions based on second rate data which was inaccurate and inadequate even though many entrepreneurs of the past had been tremendously successful using intuition rather than systems.

Argyll Foods' decision to convert its Presto stores into Safeway branches has produced an increase in profits of 100 per cent on sales up 55 per cent, Mr Peter Howitt of Argyll told the conference.

The original estimate was that there would be a 51 per cent sales improvement and a 75 per cent profit boost. Ten stores have been converted since the acquisition of the Safeway chain in 1987 and a further 181 Presto stores will be converted to Safeway in the next four years.

Savage to buy French DIY firms

By Our City Staff

Savage Group, the USM-quoted hardware manufacturer, has agreed to buy two French makers of do-it-yourself and homecare products. The move will push its proportion of overseas sales over 50 per cent.

The initial consideration for the Habitat and Triplex companies — which have no connection with the British concerns of the same name — will be FF77.9 million (£7.28 million), to be funded by a placing of convertible preference shares at £1 each and an open offer to shareholders.

In return, Savage will receive an immediate 32 per cent holding in Triplex, which itself will have 49 per cent of Habitat after the deal.

Savage will then buy the outstanding shares in Triplex over the next seven years, at a price related to future profits.

The placing will raise £14.4 million by the issue of 15.13 million preference shares, to be offered back to existing shareholders.

Smaller firms 'ignorant about rating reforms'

By Colin Narborough

Nearly two thirds of the country's smaller and medium-sized companies appear unaware of the dramatic implications that rating reforms due in 1990 will have on their costs, according to Herring Son & Daw, the property valuer.

A survey commissioned by the company and published today shows that central London, where rates bill on prime property could treble, is, surprisingly, the area least aware of what the property revaluation and uniform business rate will mean financially. The North-east is the next worst informed.

Mr Nick Owen, Herring Son & Daw's chairman, notes that Britain's largest firms have already started to take steps to prepare for the changes, but the findings for small and medium-sized businesses, which form the heart of industry, are "very worrying".

He said the lack of knowledge and understanding was

astonishing in an era of cost-conscious management, as the revaluation and national non-domestic rate would in many cases have a "devastating effect on occupiers' costs."

His company's analysis of cost impact of the rating reform shows new buildings and retailing, especially greenfield sites, being hardest hit, with the South-east seeing the highest regional rate increases.

Rates on prime shops in Oxford Street, London, are expected to rise 227 per cent, good period buildings in Covent Garden 200 per cent, and Soho 125 per cent.

But while prime City sites would rise by 60 per cent, rate bills across the Thames in Southwark are expected to drop by 18 per cent.

The migration this could provoke in London is illustrated by detailed figures that show the gap between rent plus rates per square foot in the City and neighbouring Tower Hamlets widening from £6 now to £20 in 1990.

The companies polled, which had annual turnover of between £1 million and £20 million, equally represented the manufacturing and service sectors. But being unaware of the cost implications did not mean they were ignorant of the planned changes in non-domestic rates. About 83 per cent knew of the reforms.

Firms in the Midlands, Greater London, and the South-east appear best informed of the potential impact of 1990.

About two thirds of the aware companies, have appointed rating advisers to work out the cost implications and seek advice on rerating.

Herring Son & Daw expects the uniform poundage to be set at about 38 per cent in 1990. The increase in rates bills will arise from the preceding revaluation of commercial properties' rateable values — the first for 17 years.

Strong regulator for electricity urged

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The electricity industry will need a powerful regulatory body to prevent it becoming inefficient and stop costs to the consumer rising once it moves into the private sector.

This is the view of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, which says that a powerful regulator would make the new companies more successful and benefit customers and shareholders.

The association has produced a report, *Regulating for Efficiency*, investigating regulatory authorities in the United States.

Yesterday, Mr Andrew Warren, the association's director, said: "This report should finally kill off some of the myths and misconceptions about the US experiences in regulation which have improperly gained some currency in Britain."

"The allegation that the US regulatory system restricts the ability of utility managements to manage efficiently could not be further from the mark. Rather, it can assist them substantially."

The US system has been attacked by Mr Michael

Spicer, the Under Secretary of State for Energy, as being too bureaucratic, being based on the regulation of profits, involving interference on too many levels, and stifling innovation.

However, the association says: "In the US there is a considerable body of experience of both public and private ownership of utilities."

"It is unfortunate that a number of myths, untruths and misconceptions about US experiences have arisen, and have improperly gained some currency in Britain."

"The lesson which clearly emerges from our studies of public utility commissions is that there is a strong correlation between states where powerful interventionist, purposeful, regulatory authorities exist, and the existence of gas and electricity utilities which operate efficiently and in the best interests of their customers."

"The converse appears to be even more true. Weak, hands-off regulation has permitted costly inefficiencies, to the detriment of customers and shareholders alike."

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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April, 1988

APPOINTMENTS

Chartered Trust: Mr Ian Paterson will become chairman from next Thursday and Mr Tony Webb has been appointed managing director.

Anglia Television: Mr Peter Gibbins is now chairman.

International Commercial Bank: Sir Michael Sandberg has been appointed chairman.

John Sutcliffe (Shipping): Mr James Sutcliffe has been made chairman.

SD-Scicon: Mr Robin Gill has been appointed a non-executive director. Mr Warren Werblow, Mr Christopher Tendell and Mr André Ronet have joined the board.

Multi-Arc (UK): Mr Alan Stevenson is now chairman and chief executive.

March Computer Systems: Mr Geoffrey Lawson has been made a non-executive director.

Save & Prosper: Mr Christopher Wiscarson has joined the boards of Save & Prosper Group and Save & Prosper Insurance.

Alba: Mr Bill Cortes is to join the board as a non-executive director.

BASE LENDING RATES

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These results show, once again, that our business is in particularly good shape with sustained growth in all areas.

Retail sales were especially strong, helped by a healthy demand for suits and an increase in the sale of women's clothes.

We also expanded our retail operation with the acquisition in the USA of Cashmores of Scotland; while in the UK, our programme of retail development continued, including a new store in London's Liverpool Street and extensive refitting or refurbishment of existing outlets.

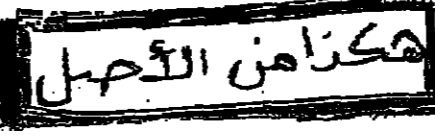
In manufacturing, production has been extended to meet increased demand and direct exports reached £11m.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES
Late recovery



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 11. Dealings end today. Contango day April 25. Settlement day May 3.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

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From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check against the daily or accumulative dividend. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulative prize money stated. If you follow the clues procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

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Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various companies like Evede, Mandar, Slawick, etc.

BREWERIES table listing companies like Asahi Breweries, Carlsberg, etc.

BUILDING, ROADS table listing companies like Bovis Lend Lease, Bovis Lend Lease, etc.

Table listing companies in the E-K section.

Table listing companies in the Finance, Land section.

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Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

BRITISH FUNDS table listing various funds like 100% High Yield, etc.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table listing short-term investments.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table listing medium-term investments.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table listing long-term investments.

Table listing companies in the Chemicals, Plastics section.

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OVERSEAS TRADERS table listing international trading companies.

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING table listing media companies.

Table listing companies in the Leisure section.

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INDEX-LINKED table listing index-linked investments.

Table listing companies in the Electricals section.

Table listing companies in the Industrial A-D section.

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A new North, getting back on the track



The conviction is growing that the region's economic salvation must come from within rather than the luring of capital from the rest of the UK and abroad

Which North? The main street in the Northumberland country town of Wooler is coloured drab green. Barbours are the uniform here, amid the sheep runs and stone-walled farms; the high street is jammed by Land-Rovers. Here is Old Money and elevated social tone, even if in the summer months the nearby Pennine Way decants a different breed into the shops and hotels.

Yet hiker and hereditary landowner live together well enough in Wooler's version of the "North". Instead of Wooler, try Hexham, or Morpeth, both identified as "Northern Lights" in a recent study of the North's development potential, that is, plush and prosperous centres with enough antique shops and golf courses to please the most exacting refugee from the Home Counties.

There are, of course, other versions of the North. Last week's great reform of housing benefit will make scant difference to the sums done weekly by Hartlepool District

Council as it collects the rent for up to 70 per cent of its dwellings, not from the tenants but from the Department of Health and Social Security. Hartlepool, in Cleveland, is an impoverished town, a creation of the age of steel, left stranded on its passing.

In industrial recession, the town seems to have shrunk in on itself, blocked from the sea on one side by cliffs and redundant plants, hemmed in on the other by the forest of chemical-processing machinery that fills the north bank of the River Tees. The port, with its outlet to the North Sea, is dilapidated. This, too, is the "North".

So is the Gateshead Metro-Centre, two million square feet of retail space plus an indoor theme park, a Marks & Spencer branch unafraid to try out its newest lines: an Enterprise Zone made good. Here the derelict legacy of Victorian capitalism has been ploughed under and new money poured in.

The site on which the shopping centre stands was, only eight years ago, worth a pittance - £100,000 to be exact. Now the values could safely add three noughts and still find a buyer: the worth of John Hall, the local developer who owns MetroCentre, is estimated at anything up to £200 million. Hype or no hype, MetroCentre is on retailing's leading edge, and it also is the North.

Of the three versions of the North, there is no question which appeals most to the burgeoning group of men and women whose livelihood it is, one way or another, to promote the North through such organizations as the Northern Development Company.

John Hall is the model not so much of the northern region's conversion to Thatcherism, as a growing conviction among business leaders and professional promoters that the region's economic salvation has got to come more and more from within, from the creation of new business, the stimulation of local property and less and less from the importation of capital and talent - or rather the bribing of capital - from the rest of the UK and overseas.

No one is going to stop, courting Japanese business or turn away another Nissan or Komatsu project; equally there is a strong sense that they cannot afford to depend on calculations made in the boardrooms of Tokyo.

John Hall says: "It's necessary to make the people within these provincial areas believe in themselves again." And the aspiration serves as the theme for the Northern Development Company, the most readily identifiable of the scores of organizations involved with the economic well being of the region. John Hall sits on it, alongside fellow businessmen, trade unionists and councillors.

Where the NDC is going, as of last week, is into the curious business of "image": it is planning a series of exhibitions, even a trans-European train, to promote the New North.

The statisticians' North encompasses the counties of Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland, the districts that used to make up the now abolished county of Tyne and Wear - a source of some controversy - the county of Cumbria, on the western side of the Pennines, belongs in Whitehall terms with Newcastle upon Tyne, except that it is for Barrow-in-Furness and parts of the southern Lake District which look to Manchester.

Above: Alastair Balls, chief executive of Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, by the Tyne bridge that symbolises a city and a region

of the special problems of regenerating the economy along the Solway Firth, consider they belong to the North-West.

Like other regions, the North is distinguished as much by internal diversity as by the homogeneity imparted by its industrial legacy of declining manufacturing and extractive industry.

'It's necessary to make the people believe in themselves'

The aggregates paint a picture of rapid decline in manufacturing employment, the highest unemployment outside Ulster, relatively slow growth in the service sector and huge continuing dependence on the public sector for employment: the sectoral picture (emphasized by such bodies as the NDC) is of a burgeoning pharmaceutical industry with good ties to Newcastle University, a region with high disposal income and a booming consumer expenditure and so on.

There is, it is safe to say, a provincial culture, in the sense that the inhabitants of Tyne and Wear share a view of the world. When, last year, Edwina Currie, the junior health

minister, cast aspersions on the dietary habits of "the North", she caused widespread offence, touching the regional identity.

Yet it is an identity that, according to Dr John Bridge, chief executive of the NDC, is changing.

Pundits have described the North-East as "deeply anti-entrepreneurial", meaning that the patterns of employment laid down in the nineteenth century were of division between employer and employee, in the pits, the ship-building yards and armaments factories.

Add to that a sort of Geordie docility and you have the recipe for excellent labour relations in, for example, the new Nissan car-making plant at Washington, near Sunderland. But it is not an occupational culture - the pundits say - suited to the 1990s.

Dr Bridge speaks of "creating capabilities from within"; he sees the role of the NDC (which is paid for by contributions from business as well as the public sector) in creating and fostering indigenous institutions to assist them. He envisages a northern venture-capital fund. He has in mind a Northern Property Group.

been done by such government agencies as English Estates, seem to be insufficient to attract private property developers. Rents are rising, but not fast enough to fill a supply-side gap; Dr Bridge envisages a property fund to cover the temporary shortfall.

In *Northern Lights*, the study commissioned from Professor Peter Hall and colleagues by surveyors Derrick Wade and Waters, a sophisticated game plan has been drawn up to re-channel development aid towards those parts of the North which approximate the most desirable locations in the South.

Towns such as Hexham, Morpeth - possibly Carlisle and Berwick - should, the

planners say, be made the centre-piece of a strategy for enticing computers and high-technology companies to the North. Alongside this they recommend a game plan for the cities based on growth in financial and leisure services. And here the planners (who, with Michael Heseltine, urge the creation of a regional development agency) touch the lines thought evident by government ministers.

The juggling act for Dr Bridge and his colleagues is on the one hand to boost the North and its emancipation into the enterprise culture and at the same time to make a continuing case for assistance.

The rapidity of recent government policy changes has

not helped: Automatic regional development grants have been replaced by selective assistance adjudicated by civil servants. The New Towns are being wound up and their assets sold.

But the Government is still diverting money to the North through a plethora of schemes under its inner-cities programme and what remains of its regional assistance scheme. So the North has been given two development corporations, one working in Newcastle and Sunderland, the other on Teesside with the job of clearing the ground (physically and metaphorically) for private business to move in. Government can in no way substitute for private markets, Lord Young appears to say, but can lubricate their wheels.

Left: John Hall, and his successful MetroCentre

Dr Bridge and his colleagues have no option but to agree, but their problem is reconciling what they claim are the manifest economic opportunities now opening in the North and the unwillingness of London-based financiers to venture northwards - the "Watford Gap syndrome". Capitalism, it appears, is curiously myopic.

David Walker
Social Affairs Correspondent
Northern Lights: A Development Agenda for the North in the 1990s, by Michael Brexey, Peter Hall and Douglas Hart, from Derrick Wade and Partners, 29a Wimpole Street, London W1M 7AD

McClark made a name for himself in the early 1980s as a leading spokesman for the regeneration of the North.

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Working together today to build the North's tomorrow.

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John Hall has already stamped his inimitable hallmark on the North of England.

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Now he is developing a colossal business/leisure park and conference centre in the 5,000 acres of Teesside's Wynyard Hall - and that is attracting international attention, too.

John Bridge is another major force in the attracting of business to the Great North, through the enabling work of the Northern Development Company.

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The Great North: to discover its many attractions, phone John Sadlik at the NDC. The number is (091) 261 0026.

Northern Development Company, Bank House, Carlisle Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6XE. Cameron Hall Developments Ltd., 1 Allison Court, Longrigg Road, Swalwell, Tyne & Wear NE11 9YS.

FOCUS

NORTHERN ENGLAND

It's up to the executives, says the Government

The government... the stage of the Eldon Square recreation centre in Newcastle recently to preach to an audience of 200 northern business executives invited to the first of his roadshows...



Jeremy Beecham, the Labour leader of Newcastle City Council, at the Armstrong Centre on the banks of the Tyne

is whether there will be changes in the pattern of grant-giving by the DTL.

Cumbria, Durham, Cleveland and Northumberland county councils all have departments dedicated to promotion, and to the stimulus of indigenous enterprises.

Durham County Council recently set up Durham Development Company under the chairmanship of Sir Ron Dearing...

Beecham's exclusion from the breakfast meeting rankled.

Mr Clarke, inadvertently, posed another problem. According to the Northern Development Company, the premier promotional body for the region, the North has a lot to offer investors...

If so, why do not the pension-fund managers and the chief finance officers of the leading corporations seize the opportunity...

The abolition of automatic entitlement to grants in the development areas, as from April 1, as part of the Government's re-think of regional policy, has left it unclear how the urban areas of the North can expect any special lift.

Mr Clarke made it clear - in a letter he wrote to Councillor Jeremy Beecham, the Labour leader of Newcastle City Council - that he does not really see much role for local authorities in his new thinking about regeneration.

Newcastle City Council, Labour-controlled, cannot by any stretch of the imagination be called immoderate, and Mr

Many offers of support for the aspiring business

The DoE has its own set of interests. They include the derelict-land programme, making grants available, for example, to make the Durrant-hill Sidings in Cavale fit to house a 7,450 square metre factory...

The array of organizations to which the aspiring or the established business can turn for support is huge. In Con-

sent, Durham, where the end of steel making in 1980 cost 3,500 jobs, praise has been heaped on the Derwentside Industrial Development Agency for helping the establishment of snack-food makers and disposable nappy manufacturers as replacement employers.

English Estates is the quango responsible for providing advance factories in the development areas, and though its work has recently been scaled down (leading, some say, to a bottleneck in the supply of factory space) it continues to play a role. It is still an active builder, for example, in the 167-acre Bellasis Hall Technology Park on Teesside.

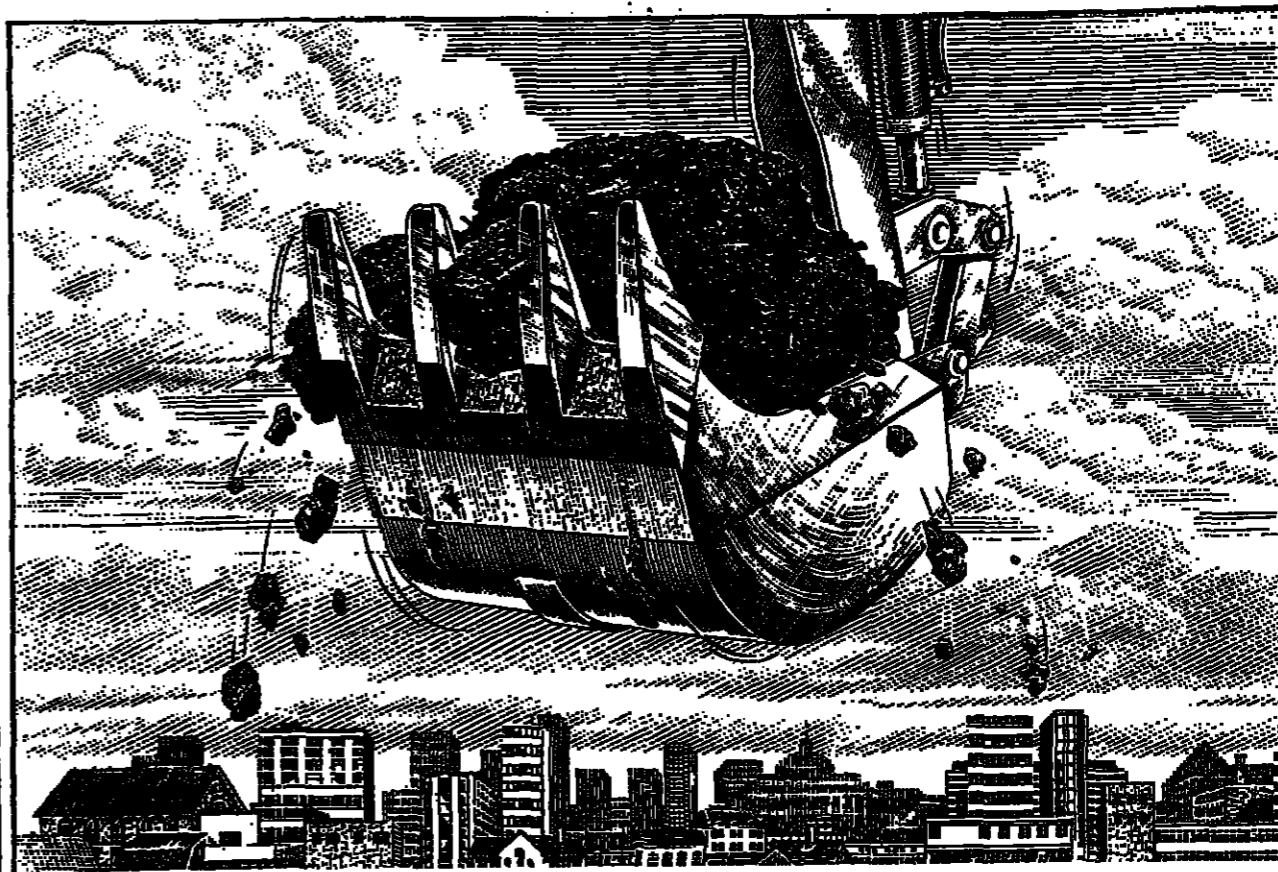
Among the most glamorous of the agencies recently established to promote the region are the Department of the Environment's two development corporations which, although intended to regenerate specific tracts of land, have come to play a wider, promotional role just as the New Town corporations that are now being wound up did before them.

Alastair Balls, chief executive of the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, is responsible for riparian sites along the two waterways. "My job is to make those rivers really work again", he says, intending not only to stimulate business but to keep a clear eye on how the buildings and landscaping looks.

Duncan Hall, chief executive of the Teesside Development Corporation, is less concerned about looks and asks to be judged on how many jobs the agency can create.

The Teesside Development Corporation may find that retailing offers a good prospect of taking people off the Middlesborough unemployment register. It is negotiating the redevelopment of the Stockton racecourse in a big project centred on supermarkets. Leisure beckons, too: the corporation is examining the creation of a marina at Hartlepool.

هكزامن الأهريل



Preparing new ground for new jobs in the North.

The groundwork for growing employment in the North of England is in hand right now. Already, over 74,000 men and women are employed in properties provided by English Estates North throughout Northumberland, Durham, Tyne & Wear, Cumbria and Cleveland.

in close partnership with other organisations dedicated to job creation - we are helping to move the North away from its traditional reliance on heavy industry towards a new, broadly-based economy geared to today's needs.

This year alone, we shall be building a further half million square feet of commercial and industrial property, ranging from urban custom-built high-tech premises to affordable workshops in rural areas.

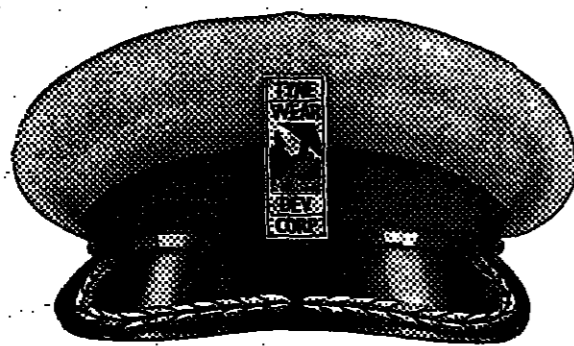
This groundwork by the Northern division of England's largest property development agency is attracting a steady flow of new employers, whilst our Business Support Scheme is ensuring that our existing 1900 tenants go from strength to strength.



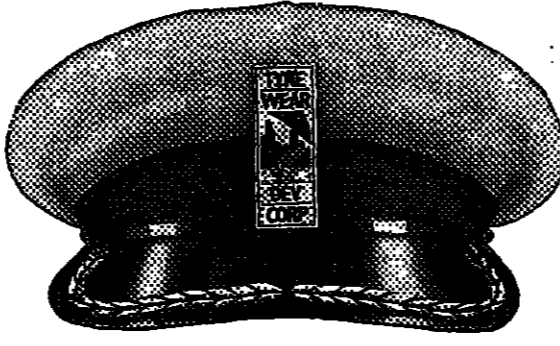
By encouraging the start-up and assisting in the development of new business - often

English Estates North: we are helping in the preparing of new ground for new jobs in the North.

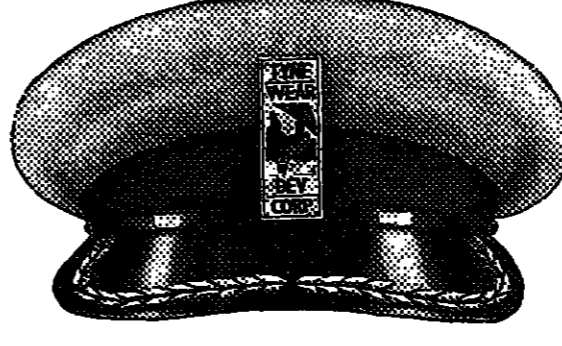
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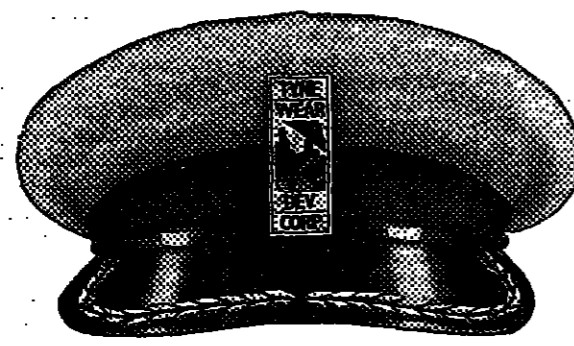
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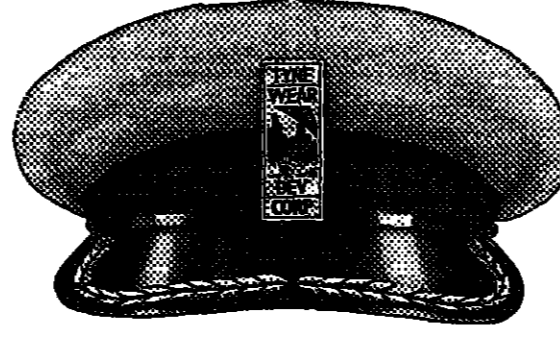
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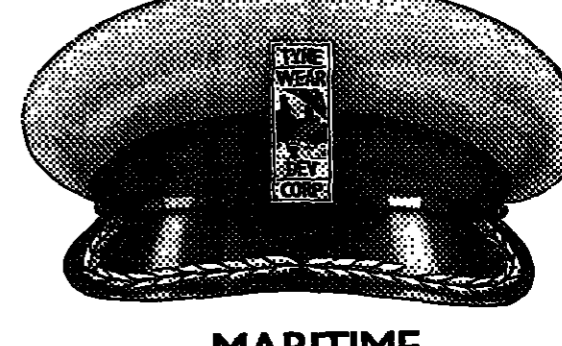
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FOCUS



There's much more confidence in manufacturing generally, even in the more traditional industries Terry Harrison

Confidence returns as orders flow

As chairman of the region's engineering giant, the Newcastle-based Northern Engineering Industries, Terry Harrison is well placed to see the changes. "There's a great deal more confidence in manufacturing generally, even in the more traditional industries such as mine," he said.

"Companies have got their costs down, they are much more efficient and they are better managed. Also, the inward investment is really beginning to pay off and is making a significant impact on the region's economic fortunes."

He says the turnaround is particularly noticeable in the supply industries. "There was a very high mortality rate among these companies, but now they are starting to last longer."

Mr Harrison's own group has just emerged from a two-year rationalization programme, involving heavy plant closures and job cuts, as it prepares itself for an intensely competitive power-station business in the 1990s. Its 1987 results, published last month, revealed a drop in turnover to £805 million (£938 million in 1986), but an encouraging rise in profits £32.2 million (£23.2 million).

The big Japanese investments in the North have been stealing the industrial headlines, bringing in new automotive and consumer-electronics industries and forcing fundamental change in the region's landscape.

Some of the region's longest-established engineering companies are also going through changes. Artix, for example, the articulated dump-truck operator at Peterlee owned by an entrepreneur, David Brown, has just bought General Motors' Bedford truck business.

Howard Dawson, Artix's managing director, says that the two will, however, be run as quite separate businesses.

Artix makes articulated dump trucks for Caterpillar, exporting 85 per cent of its output and employing 675 people, 45 of whom are based at a new £2 million plant at Stockton which will produce articulated dump trucks and telescopic materials-handling vehicles. Mr Dawson says Artix plans to make up to 700 trucks this year, compared with 600 in 1987.

At nearby Spennymoor, Electrolux is investing £4.5 million in the former Thorn EMI refrigerator and cooker plant it took over last year. The investment is going into modernizing and re-equipping the 250,000 sq ft factory.

The fast-growing technology of surface engineering is one in which several companies in the region are taking a lead. The surface-technology group, Multi-Arc, which has a subsidiary in Consett, Durham, owned jointly with Siemens, recently formed a joint venture research and consultancy company with Newcastle Polytechnic.

Called Aset (advanced surface engineering technologies), the company has £250,000 worth of research work in this, its first full year in business, including work for Multi-Arc, Siemens, Rolls-Royce, British Gas, NEI Parsons, Lamp Metals and the National Centre of Tribology.

Its chairman, Alan Stevenson, said: "I want to expand Multi-Arc at Consett in terms of the technologies we have available. We plan to be a centre of excellence and expertise."

Another Co Durham company in surface technology is Whickham Ion Beam Systems, part of the Darlington-based Darchem Group. It is a world-recognized supplier of ion implantation equipment, used primarily for research into new materials. It recently installed a 200keV heavy ion accelerator at Imperial College.

Allan Lee



Installing an engine. Nissan spent £24 million on its Sunderland plant

Jobs from the East

Two years from now there will be 6,300 people in the North-East working for the Japanese, writes Allan Lee. This forecast, based on investments and expansion plans already announced by the Japanese companies sprouting in the region, was published by the Department of Trade and Industry last month.

But events have already overtaken the prediction: Nissan Yamato Engineering (NYEL) has since announced it will now be creating 250 jobs at its new vehicle-component factory to supply Nissan's car plant at Washington, near Sunderland.

When NYEL's £24 million investment was announced last July, the Nissan joint-venture company said it would create 130 jobs. But Nissan's own accelerated expansion plans - its 1991 production target has recently been doubled from 100,000 to 200,000 units a year - means its suppliers need to be bigger, too. And soundings from the region's inward investment agencies are suggesting the DTI forecast will prove conservative. They say more Japanese and far-eastern companies are likely to announce plans for new factory investments between the Borders and the Tees.

The Industry Secretary, Lord Young, announced in Tokyo last month that Sanyo, was to become the region's 21st Japanese company. In an £11 million investment, San-

yo will create more than 500 jobs at two sites: Newtonycliffe, Co Durham, and Thornaby in Cleveland, where it will make microwave ovens and magnetrons.

A Sanyo official said his company opted for the North-East because of its good ports, its good labour force, and because of the help given to it by the Northern Development Company, the DTI and other

The Japanese seem to feel at home with the North-East

regional agencies. Sanyo's plant brings to £480 million the Japanese investment in the region.

Ray Atkinson, Northern Development Company chairman, says: "The Japanese seem to feel very much at home with the people of the North-East. Everyone has worked extremely hard to make them feel welcome, and that includes the trade unions and all the local authorities."

Inward investment provided an important share of region's manufacturing capacity long before the Japanese arrived.

There are 90 European and more than 90 US firms in the North of England, many of them having been here for

decades. Among the largest Japanese factories in the North-East are the £32 million NSK Bearings plant at Peterlee, employing 554 people; Komatsu's £14 million earthmoving equipment facility at Birtley, providing 275 jobs; and the Tabuchi Electric plant at Thornaby, Cleveland, which employs 450 making transformers for televisions, video recorders and microwave ovens.

Nissan's factory at Sunderland, now producing officially "British" cars with 60 per cent local content, is however by far the largest single Japanese investment in the North.

And news that the Sunderland factory was to be the largest single Japanese investment in Europe emerged in December when the Nissan chairman, Takashi Ishihara, announced an additional £216 million was to be invested on top of expansion plans already in the pipeline. Nissan has now committed £600 million to the factory.

Mr Ishihara said the additional investment would provide 1,000 new jobs at the plant over and above increases in the workforce already planned, and at least 400 additional jobs among Nissan suppliers such as Ikeda Hoover and NYEL. He said: "The total number of employees at our Sunderland plant will be increased from its present level of about 1,100 to around 3,500 by 1992."

Only four years old and 400 on staff

Dr John Russell admits biotechnology is not the first thing people associate with Teesside, writes Allan Lee. He is general manager of one of ICI's most entrepreneurial ventures, Biological Products at Billingham, which is using biotechnology to create new products and new businesses. He said: "We grew out of ICI's work on single-cell proteins in the 1960s and 1970s, and we are now setting up new businesses, either on our own or through joint ventures with companies in the UK, Europe, Japan and the United States."

Dr Russell says Biological Products will eventually employ close to 400 people, having already grown to 230 since its beginning in 1984.

His group is developing a business in biocatalysts, using micro-organisms for tackling environmental problems such as treating toxic waste, and also for developing new biological routes to making chemicals.

From his office window Dr Russell can see Belasis Hall Technology Park, a joint venture between ICI and English Estates, backed by funding from central and local government. Phase 1 of the park spanning 50,000 sq ft is now complete and will be formally opened later this year. Its chief executive, George Hunter, says 17 companies have signed to locate at Belasis Hall, taking up between them around half the available accommodation in Phase 1.

Though the tenants are in various advanced-technology industries, many in information technology, the park offers a special opportunity for biotechnology companies such as Worcester-based Restec Food Laboratories. ICI is willing to open its doors to small firms on the park, making its expertise and some of its technology and equipment available to them.

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كزائن الأصيل

Motoring by Clifford Webb

BMW Touring returns after 16 years

BMW "buffs" surface in the most unlikely places. I was snatching a picnic lunch alongside a lonely Scottish loch when an ageing BMW drove slowly past, turned and repeated the process. This time it stopped and the ruddy faced, tweed-clad driver came across...

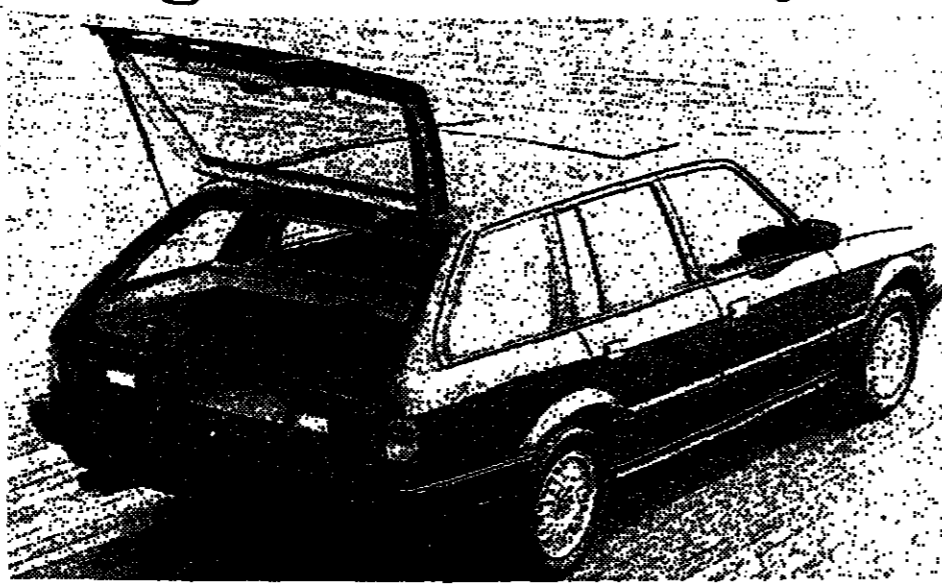
"So that's the new BMW estate is it? Mind if I have a look around." He stayed for 20 minutes, and long before that time was up it was apparent that he had read just about everything published about BMW cars in the last 20 years.

As a farmer, he prized the extra load-carrying capability of the new BMW 325i Touring, but was not happy about the shape. "It's not really the BMW image", he asserted.

That comment explains why BMW has waited 16 years before building a successor to the 2,000 Touring which was withdrawn after only two years because continental BMW buyers did not want utility-looking versions.

Britain was one of the few markets where it sold well and its premature demise was regretted.

BMW is still reluctant to call it an estate, preferring to retain the in-house word



The BMW 325i Touring: one of the fastest estates on the road

Touring. Officially it is a "compact sporting car that offers greater versatility for leisure time use".

Based on the popular 3-Series four-door saloon, it has less load-carrying space than its size would suggest because, in the interests of noise suppression and clean lines, the wheel arches are totally encased up to window height. As

a result it is as quiet as the saloon, but loses valuable cargo space.

The suspension has been stiffened to cope with about 200lbs of extra weight, but driven one-up over some 170 miles of mixed Scottish roads last week the ride and handling were excellent.

The 2.5 litre version of BMW's superb six cylinder

engine makes this one of the fastest estates on the road with a 0-62 mph time of 8.8 seconds and a maximum speed of 133 mph. Now reaching showrooms, its very full specification includes ABS anti-lock brakes, alloy wheels and power steering. It costs £18,595 (manual) and £19,985 (automatic). A cheaper two-litre will be introduced later in the year.



Mercedes' new 300E 4 Matic: £5,000 extra, but no shortage of customers

Brain-power boosts Mercedes

Only Mercedes could take an already expensive car and add another £5,000-plus to the purchase price for "unseen" equipment. The 300E 4 Matic which has just arrived in British showrooms costs £30,150 as a saloon and £31,650 as an estate. In standard guise they sell for £24,250 and £25,750 respectively. But so remarkable is the additional equipment that there will be no shortage of buyers.

The term 4 Matic refers to the most advanced four-wheel drive system to date. During normal driving the car uses only two driven wheels (rear), avoiding the heavy fuel consumption and lack of manoeuvrability found with many full-time four-wheel drive systems. Corner faster than normal or drive

rain or ice-affected roads and sensors linked to an electronic "brain" lock in the front wheels.

The front turn angle is measured and compared with the position of the steering wheel. If there is a difference it engages four-wheel drive. A warning light on the dash tells the driver what is happening. The same happens if a wheel spins.

It operates in three stages: 1. Adds front to rear-wheel drive. 2. Locks differential between the two axles. 3. Locks differential in rear axle.

Standard equipment includes ABS anti-lock braking, power steering, central locking, electric windows and seat belt tensioners.

Citroen's 1.9 estate

Estate cars between 1.6 and 2.0 litre have taken off during the past three years. Sales rose from 38,809 in 1985, to 38,663 in 1986 and 53,256 last year. One of the beneficiaries, Citroen's BX estate range, has just been strengthened by the addition of a fuel-injected 1.9.

The new BX 1.9 TRI estate could prove particularly popular with caravan and boating enthusiasts looking for extra pulling power. The BX's self-leveling, hydro-pneumatic suspension copes with over half a tonne payload and will tow up to 1100 kgs. It costs £11,354.

Added punch for the boxer

Alfa Romeo is giving its engine range a much needed boost. At the Turin Motor Show this week it revealed plans to start with the existing 1.7 "boxer" engine. It is getting four valves per cylinder, electronic multi-point fuel injection, electronic engine management and butterfly valves in the inlets for improved efficiency.

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RUGBY UNION

Top clubs will fight hard to maintain position of privilege

By Gerald Davies

Not even Welsh rugby - or perhaps especially Welsh rugby - can escape that unbearable tightness of being known as a closed shop.

The Welsh Rugby Union's general committee cannot determine its own progress and conduct without, inevitably, the majority consent of the club membership.

However, within this framework an influential caucus would like to undermine the proposals. These are the 16 Merit Table clubs, so called, who, apart from Swansea, have shown no inclination or sympathy for the promotion of a league structure and without whom, they feel, no such system could effectively be sustained.

There is something deceptively delicate, not to say fishy, about their position. For while they participate in an unofficial championship promoted by a national newspaper and, in addition, actively administer a Merit Table sponsored by a brewery, they protest most loudly and unconvincingly against such a league officially sanctioned by the WRU, saying that what was good enough for the last

hundred years or so remains good for the future of Welsh rugby. And, with an expression of affection for each other, they wish to exercise personal choice in the decision as to who they should play. There is still further talk of extra pressure on players, the likely deterioration in behaviour and the increasing possibility that money would change hands.

All this smacks of gerrymandering and double talk. It is the closed shop mentality. These clubs have been in a monopoly position for so long and given no opportunity for others to break into their exclusive group. As such they are self-perpetuating and a privileged gang. The WRU, however, would like to persuade them to have a change of heart.

"Personally, I don't think that to call up the past is entirely relevant," Ray Williams, the WRU secretary, says. "The climate in which rugby is now played is changing and we have to take that into account if we are to prepare for what the future holds. We are a small nation but we need to make certain we make full use of all our resources and not waste opportunities.

"As for the freedom of choice, I am sure, given discussion, there will still be enough freedom within a

structure which accommodates, say, a stipulated number of 18 fixtures a season, and allows clubs to make their own arrangements at other times.

"As for extra pressure and violence," goes on Mr Williams, "experience shows that in the Cup competition, for example, behaviour remains good and the players relish that kind of pressure. And if the authorities keep firm control there is no need to worry about rugby becoming in any way professional. There would have also to be stricter controls on the movements of players. All this forms part of a five-year plan which incorporates a number of developments of which leagues is only one.

"The timetable of discussion is under way. A draft paper will be submitted to the committee of the Union in May. That, once approval has been reached, will be distributed to all the clubs who can make their own recommendations. The matter will not be discussed at this year's AGM but approval can only be given at the AGM the following year."

If this persuasive dialogue fails, one wonders whether, as elsewhere, legislative change will have to insist, through the union's constitution, that all clubs take part in such a competition.

Everything is so competitive now," Cathy Crossley, from Moseley, said. "We want to be able to get together and play social games. It's impossible to get enough friends rounded up for hockey owing to the numbers required, but because these are morning courses and everything is organized, it gives us the ideal opportunity."

At the first course the eager new players were introduced to some basic skills and then enjoyed a short game. Afterwards McCarthy, a mother of four, enthused: "It was fantastic as we've had a heck of a good time. My husband will never believe me!"

Non-competitive attitude to hockey looks like being the sedentary player's perfect cup of tea

Innovative approach seems sure to succeed

By Cathy Harris

Maureen McCarthy, a Birmingham housewife, last played hockey 25 years ago in her school team. Yesterday was her first opportunity to play since then when she joined 30 others in the first Typhoo School of Hockey at the Fox Hollies Leisure Centre in Birmingham.

The Midlands-based project is the first of its kind in England and is aimed at encouraging women back to sport. Nell Mallett, a former England captain who is the first regional development officer for the All England Women's Hockey Association, conceived the idea after research findings concluded that four out of five women do not play sport after leaving school.

Women attracted back into this healthy team sport will be provided with courses in their local communities throughout the spring. Mallett, who will administer the courses, assisted by qualified coaches, says that the most important component is the fun side.

"We want them to thoroughly enjoy themselves whilst learning the skills and recalling the rules," she said. "We have created a slightly different game which will encourage lots of running play, which gives us the chance to hold the sessions in sports halls, on grass pitches or on artificial surfaces."

An added incentive is the provision of creche facilities. Ann Hughes, aged 32, from Acocks Green, says she could not consider attending if she could not bring her daughter - a view shared by the majority of the participants.

Slipping their complimentary cup of tea before the start of the first session, most of the women agreed that the non-competitive nature of the course had attracted them.

"Everything is so competitive now," Cathy Crossley, from Moseley, said. "We want to be able to get together and play social games. It's impossible to get enough friends rounded up for hockey owing to the numbers required, but because these are morning courses and everything is organized, it gives us the ideal opportunity."



The way we were: the ladies of Birmingham get to grips with hockey sticks yesterday after years away from the sport

Racing results from yesterday's three meetings

Cheltenham

Going: firm

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McGuigan picks his punches

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Big offers have been landing in clusters round Barry McGuigan's ears after his fourth-round victory over Ricky Perez, of the United States, at Alexandra Palace, London, on Wednesday night. Luton Town Football Club has signed him up for a "super show" in June when his opponent will be Thomas De Cruz, of Brazil, the world No. 5. "We are going to put on a real show, together with a super laser show the like of which has never been seen in this country," the Luton stadium manager, Mike Devoer, said.



Back in the fold: McGuigan celebrates a successful return to the ring with his wife yesterday (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

McGuigan would have been back in action in May had it not been for a nick over his left eye. His manager, Frank Warren, said: "We don't want to take any chances. I'm sure I could get Azumah Nelson and I have options on Rocky Lockridge, but it's not a question of him fighting for a world title, it is a question of him winning it."

"For the first time I felt I had strength. I am a more mature and complete fighter now. I am putting my punches together much better. Perez is not a bad fighter. He had Chavez (the world lightweight champion) in trouble in the first. He certainly set my ears buzzing in the third."

When one takes into account McGuigan's absence from the ring and that he is comfortably off as a successful businessman, it was no mean feat to dispose of Perez in four rounds when Chavez, who is believed to be the best boxer in the world, took three rounds to stop the American. But it was perhaps a more impressive result than McGuigan gave a controlled display by not rushing into finish off Perez until absolutely certain and revealed new moves that quickly got him out of harm's way, including a neat, masked right hand, but his heavier new weight seems to have slowed him down.

His punches appear to have lost their whiplash quality and become heavier. He was caught by good uppercuts and had Perez been a hard puncher McGuigan could have been in trouble. One hopes that having got off the mark he will discover the sharpness of the old McGuigan. In the meantime, wisely, he is looking no further than his next bout.

Nigel Benn, the unbeaten West Ham middleweight, who won the vacant Commonwealth title by stopping Umaru Sanda, of Ghana, in two rounds, too has been inundated with offers. NBC want to sign him for seven contests.

FOOTBALL: 15 YEARS AFTER TOTAL FOOTBALL, PSV EINDHOVEN LEAD A NEW GROUP OF MASTERS

Dutch new wave reaching a crest

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

The Dutch renaissance is rapidly gathering pace and, to England's discomfort, it may reach full speed this summer. By the end of June the nation that introduced "total football" to the world some 15 years ago, could have collected all three of the most glamorous trophies on the continent.

European finals

EUROPEAN CUP: Benfica (Port) v PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) on Saturday. CUP WINNERS CUP: Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) v Middlesbrough (England) on Saturday. UEFA CUP: Bayer Leverkusen (FRG) v Espanol (Spain) on May 4. Second leg: May 18.

Donaghy to be fit for final

Mal Donaghy, the Luton Town defender carried off the Wembley pitch last Saturday, is almost certain to be back there on Sunday to play in the Littlewoods Cup final against Arsenal.

Kettering seek to confirm standing

Non-League football by Paul Newman

The rapidly changing situation at the top of the G.W. Vauxhall Conference could lead to a new dimension tomorrow. While Barnet, whose lead has been whittled away in recent weeks to just one point, go to fifth-placed Kidderminster Harriers, Kettering will be confirmed as a realistic challenger when they entertain Lincoln City, who are second.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP: Benfica (Port) v PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 1-1; Middlesbrough (Eng) v Arsenal (Eng) 2-0 on agg. EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP: Middlesbrough (Eng) v Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 2-0 on agg. UEFA CUP: Bayer Leverkusen (FRG) v Espanol (Spain) 2-0 on agg. BARCELONA LEAGUE: First division: Norwich City 0, Liverpool 0, Nottingham Forest 0, West Ham United 0, Manchester City 0, Tottenham Hotspur 0, Reading 0, Luton Town 0, Millwall 0, Charlton Athletic 0, Walsley 0, Barnet 0, Leyton Orient 0, Torquay United 0, Maidstone 0, Dover Athletic 0, Maidstone 0, Dover Athletic 0, Maidstone 0, Dover Athletic 0.

Liverpool would seek remission

If the European championship pass without trouble, it is probable that UEFA will be inclined towards inviting English clubs back. The situation, however, would be for the club to appeal for a remission on their own, longer, suspension which it must be expected would receive sympathetic hearing.

Ulster Games to help morale

Northern Ireland officials yesterday announced plans for the Ulster Games, a festival of international sport which they hope will revive morale in the province.

Drugs test plan agreed

The British Cycling Federation yesterday agreed with the Sports Council an anti-drug programme of drug testing this year, which will embrace road and track events (Peter Bryan writes).

Professional approach to the amateur game

By Keith Macklin

When Tom O'Donovan, an Irishman from Limerick who was then living in Chester, met Eileen, a Yorkshire woman from Dewsbury, on holiday in the mid-1970s, his opening words were "Dewsbury? Don't they play Rugby League there?"

England still unbeaten

England found Ireland a much tougher proposition than they had anticipated yesterday, but recovered from an early deficit to maintain their unbeaten record in the CIS Home International series at Hartlepool (David Rhys Jones writes).

Boxing: Demolition job on Perez repairs pulling power of the clones cyclone

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Big offers have been landing in clusters round Barry McGuigan's ears after his fourth-round victory over Ricky Perez, of the United States, at Alexandra Palace, London, on Wednesday night. Luton Town Football Club has signed him up for a "super show" in June when his opponent will be Thomas De Cruz, of Brazil, the world No. 5. "We are going to put on a real show, together with a super laser show the like of which has never been seen in this country," the Luton stadium manager, Mike Devoer, said.

Baseball

NORTH AMERICAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal Expos 5, Chicago Cubs 1; Pittsburgh Pirates 10, Houston Astros 1; San Francisco Giants 5, Cincinnati Reds 2; New York Mets 3, Philadelphia Phillies 2; Houston Astros 1, Atlanta Braves 0; Los Angeles Dodgers 5, San Diego Padres 2; Los Angeles Dodgers 5, San Diego Padres 2; Los Angeles Dodgers 5, San Diego Padres 2.

Football

SUNDAY MORNING COMBINATION: Tottenham 2, Swindon 0. UNITED HOSPITALS CUP: First leg: University of Chester 1, Luton 1; Luton 1, University of Chester 1. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Wimbledon 2, Peterborough 0. TOTTENHAM: Tottenham 2, Swindon 0.

Golf

TOTTENHAM: Tottenham 2, Swindon 0. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Wimbledon 2, Peterborough 0.

Tennis

HOUSTON: Women's championship: First round: Martina Navratilova (Czech) v Chris Evert (USA) 6-2, 6-2; Martina Navratilova (Czech) v Chris Evert (USA) 6-2, 6-2.

Cycling

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Boxing

ALEXANDRA PALACE, London: Professional Light welterweight (British): Tony Stone (Ireland) v Ken Houston (USA) 11; Tony Stone (Ireland) v Ken Houston (USA) 11.

Hockey

UNITED HOSPITALS CUP: First leg: University of Chester 1, Luton 1; Luton 1, University of Chester 1.

Skating

LA PLAGNE, France: British: Michelle Shi 2, 5; Michelle Shi 2, 5.

Cricket

BRITISH ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (Four days) 11.0 to 6.30, 110 overs minimum. DERBY: Derbyshire v Leicestershire. CHELMSFORD: Essex v Kent.

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surprises ss brings early lead

Hennessy, Madrid

Exiles in search of return ticket

COMMENTARY

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

Any European Cup is clearly incomplete without Liverpool, who have for some time surpassed Manchester United or Arsenal as the most respected and accomplished club in the history of the English game. Their seven-season League title demand is a matter of how long they may be allowed to remain in their rightful international arena.

It could be tomorrow; if only there was a maniac across Europe on the control of the sale of tickets to visiting spectators. Nobody of any stature, whether the FA, the British Minister for Sport, UEFA, or any country's police force, is going to be able to guarantee the behaviour of visiting supporters of whatever nationality. As John Smith, the Liverpool chairman, said yesterday: "Any return of English clubs to Europe must be accompanied by a ban on the sale of tickets to travelling supporters in either direction."

It is commercial greed, not lack of common sense, which threatens England's fragile reputation when the national team takes part in the European championships in June. Smith's belief, which I have long shared, is that the loudest voices following a team are eradicated from society, and that any English return to Europe accompanied by spectators, good and bad, is doomed to another disaster. There must, therefore, be no travelling by any means to away ties involving English clubs.

Our well-behaved supporters would gladly accept this regulation, Smith said. If rowdy spectators still insist on travelling, on the speculation that they could buy tickets on the day, they would be isolated and more easily controlled by foreign police.

Smith's view is that the present moment may be as good a time as any for the reintroduction of English clubs. He thinks the decision should await the dossier which Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, is preparing on the statistics of improvement in domestic crowd control. Smith makes the valid point that England should assist other European countries, such as The Netherlands or Spain, by providing background information on the technical facilities by which British police have now got the upper hand inside European stadiums.

Liverpool would seek remission. If the European championship pass without trouble, it is probable that UEFA will be inclined towards inviting English clubs back. The situation, however, would be for the club to appeal for a remission on their own, longer, suspension which it must be expected would receive sympathetic hearing.

European clubs are even more anxious than England's clubs to be reinstated. They are, for primarily financial reasons, yet it should be essential for European clubs to collaborate in the travelling ticket ban.

If foreign clubs want English opposition for commercial expediency, it is essential that Liverpool and others need to re-engage, if only for the experience they have forfeited for the past three years, and for a measure of their true standard.

Card of course

Club	Points
1. Liverpool	10
2. Manchester United	8
3. Arsenal	7
4. Tottenham Hotspur	6
5. Nottingham Forest	5
6. Aston Villa	4
7. Everton	3
8. Newcastle United	2
9. Leeds United	1
10. Derby County	0

SWIMMING

Goodhew backs campaign

By John Goodhew

A campaign to make the teaching of swimming and water safety compulsory in state schools was launched yesterday at the Council of Physical Education (CPE).

BASEBALL

NORTH AMERICAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal Expos 5, Chicago Cubs 1; Pittsburgh Pirates 10, Houston Astros 1; San Francisco Giants 5, Cincinnati Reds 2; New York Mets 3, Philadelphia Phillies 2; Houston Astros 1, Atlanta Braves 0; Los Angeles Dodgers 5, San Diego Padres 2; Los Angeles Dodgers 5, San Diego Padres 2.

FOOTBALL

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BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) 114, Dallas Mavericks 107; Indiana Pacers 118, Atlanta Hawks 106; Boston Celtics 112, Phoenix Suns 105; Portland Trail Blazers 111, Golden State Warriors 117; Utah Jazz 112, Los Angeles Clippers 108.

BOXING

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YACHTING

San Diego study de Savary claim

By Barry Pickthall

Can the San Diego Yacht Club renounce its offer to accept multiple challenges for the America's Cup? The question was raised yesterday after a week of stalling by the Californian club following Peter de Savary's announcement last Thursday that his British syndicate would have a K-Boat Cup challenger built in time for the proposed races in September.

The Blue Arrow group is exploiting an eleventh-hour legal about-face taken by the Californian club during a hearing in the New York Supreme Court in February when the club was under pressure to delay the event until next year to allow other challengers time to build their boats.

The offer made then to meet the winner of a sail-off with waterline yachts complying with New Zealand's original challenge was delivered in the belief that no one would be able to build a boat in available time.

The announcement by de Savary since has caught the club unawares, and American legal experts are looking to see if they can torpedo the British challenge because it is smaller than the New Zealand vessel.

De Savary remains coy about the exact dimensions of his challenger, stating only that they do not exceed New Zealand's measurements. However, the British syndicate head gave a clue this week when he said that the boat would be flown to San Diego in July aboard a jumbo jet.

Judging by Wednesday's inconclusive meeting in Los Angeles between the New Zealand lawyer, Andrew Johns, and a delegation from the San Diego Yacht Club to thrash out final details for this year's America's Cup, Fay is having an equally hard time breaking the Californian win-at-all-cost approach to the event.

A further round of litigation between New Zealand and San Diego seems inevitable. The only question that remains is whether de Savary will be forced to take a similar route to force San Diego to accept Britain's challenge, too.

CREWSEARCH

Another to offer a trial to all finalists from the 10th Crewsearch events is Graham Walker, who is keen to check out potential crew for his Crusader 12-metre. She is scheduled to be launched at Hamble over the weekend of the 22nd-23rd. Being shipped to Sweden for the world championship event in July.

The Crewsearch trials commence tomorrow at 9 a.m. at the Island Sailing Club, on the west side of Cowes Harbour, and continue through to Sunday afternoon, when the six finalists will represent the British team in the final race on Saturday. The trials themselves will be conducted aboard two easily identifiable Contessa class yachts just off Cowes Green.

When Tom O'Donovan, an Irishman from Limerick who was then living in Chester, met Eileen, a Yorkshire woman from Dewsbury, on holiday in the mid-1970s, his opening words were "Dewsbury? Don't they play Rugby League there?"



James Capel

Professional approach to the amateur game

By Keith Macklin

When Tom O'Donovan, an Irishman from Limerick who was then living in Chester, met Eileen, a Yorkshire woman from Dewsbury, on holiday in the mid-1970s, his opening words were "Dewsbury? Don't they play Rugby League there?"

That was the extent of O'Donovan's knowledge of Rugby League, but less than 15 years on he has been appointed the first national development officer of the British Amateur Rugby League Association.

The main factor in the metamorphosis of O'Donovan from philistine to die-hard was the fact that he and Eileen eventually married, and the man from Limerick left Chester where his father was a hotel head waiter, to live in Dewsbury in the heart of Yorkshire Rugby League.

In professional life he has had several roles, including that of salesman and declares that his appointment as the amateur game's national development officer is "a surprise, and the biggest thrill of my life. I wanted the job but there were 80 applicants and I knew the competition was fierce. For me it's the chance of a lifetime, and the challenge is to make amateur Rugby League a truly national game by the centenary year of 1995."

As expected, the managers of the Great Britain touring party to Australasia have extended the deadline date for the squad's walking wounded to prove their fitness to tour, from Sunday to next Wednesday.

England found Ireland a much tougher proposition than they had anticipated yesterday, but recovered from an early deficit to maintain their unbeaten record in the CIS Home International series at Hartlepool (David Rhys Jones writes).

English strength in depth was demonstrated when, despite losing heavily to two of their most reliable rivals, skipped by Bell and Bryant, the remaining rinks more than made up for the

damage and produced a 30-shot victory. Allen and Corkill were the winners for Ireland.

Branfield and his men, Morley, Biggs and Richards, have been the top rink in the last two series, and they had another fine day, a 31-13 win over the rink skipped by McBrein.

Rink skipper John "Biggie" Stiles' scores (English names in brackets) were: D B Ward 28, J G Baker 15, H Bell 14, S Allen 21, A Brock 10, L Uttridge 18, A E Thomson 28, P Porter 17, P J Branfield 31, S McBrein 10, D J Bryant 15, D S Corral 25.

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Clubs will lose league points for dirty play

By Ian Ross

Sweeping new measures to clean up football's tarnished image are due to be imposed from the start of next season. In an unprecedented move to combat misconduct on the field, the Football League and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), have drawn up a comprehensive list of punishments to deal with persistent offenders.

Those clubs with poor disciplinary records will stand to lose a maximum of three League points during the course of a season while players sent off for violent conduct or serious foul play face heavily increased suspensions.

The controversial plan - labelled by Gordon Taylor, Secretary of the PFA, as "the ultimate deterrent" - have already been sanctioned by the League's influential management committee and will be set before the League's annual general meeting in June and submitted to the Football Association's disciplinary committee for approval.

While Graham Kelly, Secretary of the Football League, admitted that the proposed

new legislation was likely to cause "a stir" at a grassroots level, the indications are that a bold move to revolutionize football's much-criticized penalty system will be given the go-ahead.

The proposals, which will affect only League games, mean that clubs whose players accumulate a high number of cautions and sendings-off could have up to three points deducted during the season. Under the penalty point system, those clubs accumulating 90 points in their opening 15 fixtures will have one League point deducted.

Similarly, clubs which accumulate a total of 180 points from 30 games will also have a point deducted. Additional sanctions will be imposed for subsequent levels of misconduct on a two-tier basis according to the number of matches played in each division.

A first division club with 228 penalty points by the end of a season (38 games) will have one point deducted whilst clubs in the second, third and fourth divisions (46 games) which amass 276 pen-

alty points will suffer a similar fate.

In addition to punishing clubs, new measures have also been proposed for dealing with players who prove to be persistent offenders.

A player sent off for violent conduct or serious foul play will face a three-match suspension instead of the present two-match ban and suspensions for subsequent dismissals will increase automatically by one match for each offence which means any offender sent off a second time will receive a four-match ban.

"We want to be in control of our own destiny. We want to show the world that we are capable of controlling what goes on out on the field of play," Taylor said.

"Discipline is of paramount importance within football. We are aware and concerned about the increased incidence of court proceedings - both criminal and civil - in England and Scotland. We are under the microscope whether we like it or not. We want to get our house in order to increase our chances of getting back into Europe next season.

"I believe that anyone who has the best interests of the game at heart will fully support these moves. I am confident they will be passed at the Football League's AGM. Football is far from being a bloodbath, but this means that for the first time clubs will be responsible for the actions of their players," he added.

Since 1970 the number of bookings has quadrupled while the number of sendings-off has increased sevenfold. At present there is, on average, one dismissal every 11 games and 1.8 cautions per League game.

If the proposed new regulations had been in force during the course of this season, several clubs would be faced with the possibility of having the maximum three League points deducted from their totals.

Although the exact placings and disciplinary points totals of the 92 League clubs in the PFA's Fair Play League are not readily available, it is clear that clubs such as Wimbledon, Portsmouth, Blackpool and Southend United dominate the lower order and have already broken or are in danger of breaking the end-of-season penalty barrier.

Liverpool, the Football League champions-elect, head the table having picked up only 35 points. Nottingham Forest are second with 61 points followed by Blackburn Rovers (76), Tottenham Hotspur (94) and Norwich City (105).

Call for all sides to get together

By Clive White and Ian Ross

The managers of Portsmouth and Wimbledon, the two clubs with the worst disciplinary records after 30 first division matches this season, were unimpressed by the proposed new measures to combat player misconduct.

Both felt there was a greater need for understanding between referees, players and managers, and insisted that all sides should be made to get together. Alan Ball, the Portsmouth manager, thought that the new penalties placed an unfair and dangerous burden of responsibility upon referees.

Ball said: "Referees are going to have the destiny of clubs in their hands and that is something they should not have. I think the present system is quite adequate. Inconsistency among referees is one of the biggest problems. You never know how a referee is going to behave until 20 minutes into the match and by then it can be too late."

"Bobby Gould (Wimbledon): "We are very supportive of any new disciplinary standards but we will never obtain the desired effect until the people at the top let us have annual seminars. I inherited a club with a poor conduct record but people have become

paranoid about Wimbledon. Jimmy Frizzell (Manchester City general manager): "I can foresee problems arising should clubs decide to take financial action against players who fall foul of the proposed new legislation. As far as I am concerned much of the onus must be taken by the players. If you do lose a player for three games you still have to pay him three weeks' wages?"

Colin Harvey (Everton): "I welcome the move. Those clubs whose players behave in a civilized fashion will have nothing at all to fear. It sounds rather harsh on first hearing, but I do not think that it will affect the vast majority of clubs. Those clubs with a poor disciplinary record will have to get their house in order."

Ron Atkinson (West Bromwich Albion): "I feel this would be tampering with the rules far too much. When a player gets sent off he is then suspended and, in most cases, fined by his club. This is enough in my view. It's right that the individual should bear the brunt of the punishment in this way but already the club suffers also by losing his services."

Pressure on referees eased

Keith Hackett, one of England's leading referees, yesterday welcomed the proposed tightening of discipline and at the same time refused that it would place himself and his colleagues under any more pressure when making their decisions (Clive White writes).

"The referee's chart is clearly defined. We don't consider what action might be

taken later. If action off the field can influence a player, we haven't got a problem. I welcome any attempt to reduce the number of red and yellow cards that are handed out," he said.

Hackett, who has been appointed to referee the opening game, between West Germany and Italy, in the finals of the European championships this summer, added: "It is the

responsibility of everyone in the game to improve discipline on the field. We must all be concerned at the high number of cautions and sendings off."

Hackett, who has been refereeing in the League since 1975, admitted that while he had seen an increase in the number of off-the-ball incidents he had observed that dissent had decreased.

Bentley takes wing in England's new team

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

John Bentley, the Sale centre who played the first senior game on the wing in England's trial in January, will win his first cap on the right wing against Ireland in the Dublin Millennium rugby union match at Lansdowne Road tomorrow.

He takes the place of Mike Harrison, the former England captain, who withdrew injured yesterday.

Bentley, aged 22, a policeman from Cleckheaton, missed the weekend training because he was playing in a county under-21 match at Headingley. He played for England Colts on the wing, but regards himself primarily as a centre. However, England played him on the wing in their three B internationals this season and he was selected for the tour to Australia in that position.

Though it is unfortunate for Harrison, who has not recovered sufficiently from an injury to his right instep suffered in Bermuda over Easter, it will be instructive for the tour

Bristol's team has complaint from Moseley

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

management to see how Bentley performs in a full international.

His B games have been distinguished by forceful running and a strong defence, though a query remains over his handling and his pace.

He will be the second new cap in the side - Egerton, the Bath No. 8 is the other - and Orwin, who leads England out for the first time tomorrow, said yesterday after training at Twickenham: "There's a lot of pride at stake for me personally and for the lads who are winning their first caps. And the Irish aren't going to lie down a second time. The fact that we beat them easily last month makes it a difficult act to follow, but I see no reason why we can't play a similar game."

Webb, the Bristol full-back, missed training yesterday because of work. He will join the party this evening, too late to take part in the light training organised this morning.

NZ reject South Africa tour offer

Wellington (AFP) - The New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU) has rejected South African proposals for All Blacks and other New Zealand players to participate in a World XV tour of the republic later this year.

The NZRFU council voted unanimously to refuse any

invitations from South Africa for players under its control to tour. Russ Thomas, the NZRFU president, said yesterday that the decision was taken in the wider interests of the game in his country and had taken fully into account the rights of individual players.

Danie Craven, the president of the South African Rugby Board, voiced his disappointment at New Zealand's decision, but added that the tour would still go ahead. "Sure, this is a great disappointment," he said. "But it's not the end of the world."

Counties begin their campaign



Well held: Downton, of Middlesex, is caught by Newell off the bowling of Stephenson in the match at Lord's yesterday

Experiment likely to fall short

By Ivo Tennant

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Nottinghamshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 97 runs behind Middlesex.

At times yesterday it seemed we were experimenting not so much with four-day cricket as with something that would be finished before the weekend. Middlesex, at one stage 46 for five, were dismissed before tea. If the weather holds, not much will be left for Monday.

Doubtless there will be plenty of occasions this summer when Nottinghamshire will rue the absence of Hadlee and Rice. Yesterday, though, there was cause for Robinson to be more optimistic with the team he has inherited, than the bookmakers have been.

Middlesex were dismissed for 199, of which 134 were scored by two batsmen, Butcher and Embury. There was plenty of bounce in the

pitch as well as movement through the air, especially in the first two hours when Nottinghamshire's attack made the most of it.

No one bowled better or more economically in this period than Stephenson. Downton, opening in place of a stricken Slack, lasted for 50 minutes without scoring before being splendidly caught off Stephenson at short leg.

By then, Carr had been taken in the slips. Gating, given a reception which indicated that the thin crowd differed with the editor of Wisden on events of the winter, played on to Saxelby.

At the same score Brown and Roseberry fell to movement and neat slip catches - and there was no Radley to pull the innings round. It was time for a different approach, and Butcher and Embury provided it. They added 100 in 26 overs, Butcher punishing any

owing to bad light at seven o'clock, with three covers still to be bowled. Angus Fraser removed Broad and Pick with successive balls.

It was a delight to watch, and it tested Robinson's captaincy. Ultimately, though, Butcher got himself out, top-edging a hook off a long-hop. His innings included seven fours and a six swung over square leg with timing not commensurate at this stage of the season. After that the innings swiftly folded. Cooper, that most reliable of first change seamers, finished with five wickets.

After that, the day, or rather the gloaming, belonged to Broad. Cowans soon beat Robinson on the back foot but there was not much offered to the bowlers for a while thereafter, particularly when they fed Broad on his legs. His 68 included seven fours. Sturdy before play was ended

Wicket-takers: First innings
J D Carr c Broad b Pick 16
JP Downton c Newell b Stephenson 7
M W Gating b Saxelby 7
K R Brown c Johnson b Cooper 14
R O Butcher c Stephenson b Cooper 73
M A Roseberry c Broad b Cooper 0
J E Embury c Franch b Cooper 61
A R C Fraser c Robinson b Stephenson 7
S P Hughes not out 4
N G Cowans b Stephenson 6
W W Daniel bow b Cooper 0
Extras (D, B, 1, nb 4) 11

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-21, 3-46, 4-46, 5-55, 6-107, 7-122, 8-138, 9-138.
BOWLING: Stephenson 19-3-58-5; Pick 17-3-41-1; Cooper 20-5-52-5; Saxelby 17-3-31-1; Harnings 4-1-7-0.
Notts/Middlesex: First innings
R T Robinson bow b Cowans 1
B C Broad c Downton b Fraser 66
M Newell not out 1
R A Pick c Downton b Fraser 0
P Johnson not out 4
Extras (D, B, 1, nb 4) 11

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-67, 3-67.
Bristol: Middlesex 2, Nottinghamshire 4.
Umpires: D J Constant and A A Jones.

Bedford told Budd must come second

By Pat Butcher

Athletics Correspondent
Dave Bedford, the Southern Counties Athletic Association representative on the British Amateur Athletic Board council, has been instructed to exclude the SCAA from any move which could lead to Britain's athletes being banned from the Olympic Games over the Zola Budd affair.

The BAAB meets on Sunday to discuss the International Amateur Athletic Federation's "request" to suspend Budd and the SCAA, one of the principal constituents of the BAAB, has decided, according to Eric Nash, their secretary, "that, while every one feels sympathy for Budd, we shouldn't support her up to the crutch."

Official support for Budd seems to be following the same line as that taken by the athletes: that, while there is sympathy for her and anger over the IAAF mandate to ban her on a technicality, the chances of British athletes competing in Seoul should not be placed at risk. Following a SCAA meeting at which the issue was discussed, Nash added: "The general consensus was that we should support the athletes who feel they should still go to the Olympics."

"At the same time, our members feel quite strongly that the IAAF shouldn't have moved the goalposts. They interpreted the rules differently to the way we would have done and it's no good for the sport the way it was done."

While Mary Peters, the 1972 Olympic pentathlon gold medal winner, was giving further support, Budd was at London Airport, to welcome her mother, Tossie, on a two-week visit. The athlete would not comment, other than to say: "It has been a strain, and the pressure has been difficult to handle. But it's become part of my life. It's not something you can just ignore."

White gains from Hendry's errors

By Steve Acteson

Jimmy White, the world No. 2, took advantage of Stephen Hendry's mistakes yesterday to take a 5-3 overnight lead in their second round match of the Embassy world snooker championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

White, aged 25, from London, has lost six times this season, including twice in tournaments to Hendry, aged 19, the Scottish champion.

White had warned that a best-of-25-frames match would be a different matter and after Hendry had opened with a break of 78 to go one up, White began to back up his words.

He took advantage of a poor safety shot by Hendry in frame three to run up a break of 59, the first of five successive breaks of 45 or more. When Hendry missed a simple pink early in the fourth frame, White struck with 61 for a 3-1 interval lead.

The first four frames had taken 48 minutes.

Hendry improved on his return to the table. White, 45-4 ahead, left a red over a top pocket, and Hendry swept home a clearance to the pink of 78.

But Hendry then squandered leads of 35-1 and then 27-0 in the next two frames, with unforced errors which allowed White to score breaks of 59 and 57, the latter starting when he potted two reds at once.

He then missed a brown while leading 21-7 in frame eight, and Hendry rolled home a break of 57 to stand two frames behind with more to follow today and tomorrow.

Kirk Stevens, meanwhile, was staging a fightback against Cliff Thorburn, and when the pair had reached their mid-session interval Stevens was only 7-6 behind.

RESULTS: Second round: Yesterday J White (Eng) beats S Hendry (Sco) 5-3. Frame scores: white first 1-60, 10-11, 20-28, 30-27, 45-22, 50-29, 75-38, 21-64. First round: C Thorburn (Can) beats K Stevens (Can) 7-6. Frame scores: Thorburn first 29-64, 66-49, 24-19, 25-77, 90-15, 85-37, 94-13, 21-68, 72-61, 68-78, 75-25, 28-74. Wednesday night: First round: D Mounsey (Wales) beats B West (Eng) 10-5. Frame scores: Mounsey first 33-38, 28-64, 100-20, 32-73, 78-15, 62-14, 88-30, 21-77, 10-71, 41-42, 62-49, 69-43, 48-62, 25-37, 58-41.

ORDER OF PLAY TODAY: Second round: 10.30 a.m.: S Davis (Eng) v M Hallett (Eng); 1.30 p.m.: A Knowles (Eng) v E Charlton (Aus), first session; 3 p.m.: A Drago (Neta) v D Taylor (N Ire), first session; 5 p.m.: S Hendry (Sco) v J White (Eng), second session; 7 p.m.: D White (Wales) to finish. Knowles v Charlton, second session.

Boxers' shorts

Billy Hardy, the British bantamweight boxing champion, will be the next challenger for the European championship held by Vincenzo Belcastro, of Italy, it was announced yesterday, amid other important news for British boxers.

Silvester Mittee, the former British and Commonwealth welterweight champion, is to make a return to the ring under the umbrella of the World Sports Corporation, at Lewisham on May 18. Michael Watson, the world-ranked Islington middleweight, also has a bout pencilled, at Wembley on May 4, against the American, Ricky Stackhouse.

Fiery spell

Calcutta (Reuters) - A fire yesterday damaged the 100-year-old Eden Gardens stadium, one of India's foremost cricket grounds and the site of the 1987 World Cup final.

Black humour

Roger Black, the European and Commonwealth 400 metres athletics champion, heard yesterday that he will not need an operation on his "mystery" ankle injury. A stress fracture has been diagnosed.

Awful Orioles

Milwaukee (AFP) - The Baltimore Orioles, the American baseball team, went into the record books on Wednesday night after their fourteenth successive defeat. The loss, to the Milwaukee Brewers, beat the previous record shared by the Washington Senators (1904) and the Detroit Tigers (1920) of 13 consecutive losses.

Oregon trial

Mary Slaney, the former double world athletics champion who is now a mother, makes her return to competition after a year's absence when she runs a 1,500m race in Oregon on May 15.

McCrory aims to exploit advantages

Glenn McCrory, of Anfield Plain, will have advantages in weight, reach and experience when he defends his British and Commonwealth cruiserweight titles against Lou Gent, of Streatham, in Gateshead tonight.

Plans are already afoot for McCrory, aged 23 and ranked No. 4 in the world, to figure in an eliminator for the world championship in the United States this summer, but Gent's manager, Johnnie Simmons, warned yesterday: "I think we might have a shock for you."

Crashed out

Paris (Reuters) - The French cyclist, Laurent Fignon, a former Tour de France champion who broke a bone in his right hand in a crash last Sunday, will be out of competition for three weeks, his team coach said yesterday.

END COLUMN

Sticking the boot in where it hurts

By David Miller

Say a prayer of thanksgiving. Twenty years behind the times, the Football League management committee has come to its senses: the more remarkable when you consider its gross mismanagement of its own "centenary" celebrations, not to mention the controversy around Robert Maxwell's nomination in football directorship. The deduction of points for repeated foul play, which was recommended yesterday, has been necessary since the game turned sour in the mid-Sixties.

In the years since, football has become incalculably damaged by unimpeded shabby practice; the success of cynical so-called professionalism has raised any concept of sportsmanship, and has simultaneously corrupted the attitudes of children and of spectators.

The only way to penalize professional cheats is not by fines, or even in team games by the suspension of individual offenders, but by the deduction of points: as in tennis. The only regret about the Football League's decision is that it was not initiated long ago by the governing body, the Football Association.

There must be reservations, too, whether the League will have the moral conviction properly to enforce its own rule; and whether the referees, already under severe pressure and often undermined by a lack of understanding of the game, will have the confidence and nerve to withstand ever more loaded accusations of unfairness.

Hacking way to victory

Though welcoming the League's initiative with gratitude, I cannot help wondering if it is sufficiently severe. There should be more than a three-point maximum deduction. With such a regulation in operation, Leeds, under the direction of Don Revie, would never have won anything, and others might already have learned a lesson.

There was a minority of us among the media in the Sixties and Seventies who were protesting at the time when Leeds, a brilliant team, so ruthlessly hacked, obstructed, time-wasted, injury-feigned and referee-manipulated their way to triumph.

At the recent Masters golf tournament at Augusta, I met a Venezuelan television director. He is addicted to football, and made the point that the public is constantly cheated by the unrestrained violation of the laws by many teams. "We pay," he said, "not to come and watch people kicking each other."

FIFA should follow the lead

How, if at all, will FIFA react to the League's initiative? The control of many matches in FIFA's competitions is lamentably inadequate. The 1982 World Cup final in Madrid, between Italy and West Germany, was for an hour a disgrace: both teams systematically set out to stop each other from playing by foul means. The King of Spain dismissively waved his hand in disgust.

It would be splendid if FIFA were to follow the lead of the Football League and institute a points-deduction system that was accumulative: cautions and sendings-off in the qualifying rounds of the World Cup would carry forward to the finals, so that a team such as Uruguay in 1986 or Italy in 1982 would not only have players disciplined, but would sacrifice the points, which would carry them through to later rounds.

Sadly, the evidence of tennis suggests that, given the opportunity of a punitive system, the governing body will fall properly to implement it. What is needed to support the referee, of course, is the intervention of the official observers who see infractions which escape the referee's attention.

The morality of sport cannot survive a situation in which neither referee nor linesman saw the foul committing it. The 1982 semi-final by Scotland, of West Germany, and following which Schuster escaped with impunity.

Football, the world's most widely viewed sport, has a duty to society as well as to itself to ensure that its conduct is seen to be fair and sportsmanlike. The Football League has set the rest of the football community an example.

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